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5.3-magnitude quake jolts Marianas region. PAGE 2
Manta Ray Band to skip Guam music festival. PAGE 2

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
In a week's time, how often do you visit any CNMI government-owned website?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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Jan. 29 to Feb. 5 is designated Catholic Schools Week.

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WORLD

Two hostages are on their way home after a bold, dark-of-night rescue.

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LIFE & STYLE

Lindsay Lohan's bad luck with cars continues.

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WITH JUST DAYS LEFT BEFORE JAN. 31

USCIS 'automatically' extends parole

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will "automatically" extend parole to individuals in the CNMI who have a parole expiring on Jan. 31, 2012, a parole filed in October or later, or those with pending I-129 or I-129CW application, USCIS regional media manager Marie Thérèse Sebrechts said yesterday.

» Syed: It's not right people have yet to know status of humanitarian parole applications

This means those with pending Commonwealth-only worker petitions need not apply for an extension of their parole expiring on Tuesday.

"You do not have to file anything with USCIS to get your parole extended. However, this automatic extension applies only to those who applied for parole/parole extension in October 2011 or later, have a parole that expires on Jan. 31, 2012, and who are the beneficiaries of a petition filed with USCIS that is still

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Territories not getting a fair deal

By MAR-VIC CAGURANGAN
CORRESPONDENT

TAMUNING, Guam—Do U.S. territories enjoy the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution? And what exactly constitutes "fundamental rights?"

As far as constitutional scholars are concerned, this is a tricky issue created by legal complexities that subsequently result in unfair deals for insular jurisdictions such Guam and the CNMI.

Lawyer Leevin Camacho said the federal government uses vague standards in its application of the Constitution due to the language of court ruling and federal laws that have created "layers of ambiguities."

U.S. territories don't get to enjoy the

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER?
Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), seated, has his blood pressure checked by Diabetes Prevention and Control Program community health specialist Trina Sablan while Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) waits for his turn under a makeshift health tent in front of the legislative building on Capital Hill yesterday as part of the observance of Cervical Cancer Awareness Month.

MAR-VIC CAGURANGAN
Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor speaks to reporters at a news briefing held Thursday at the Guam Hilton resort.

'Small steps' key to status change—Justice Sotomayor

By MAR-VIC CAGURANGAN
CORRESPONDENT

TAMUNING, Guam— Constant discussion on political status issue is necessary in order for any U.S. territory to make a judicious decision on its future as a political entity, U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Sonya Sotomayor said.

"Small steps," she said, can help a jurisdiction reach its different goals.

"Obviously, people get frustrated because you feel that you're standing still

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Not so fast on reapportionment: Census data questioned

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Some lawmakers are cautioning their colleagues and the governor against jumping to conclusion that a 22.7-percent decrease in Saipan's population is the only basis for cutting the number of House members from 18 to nine.

Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan) said the basis for determining the number of Saipan House members is the population of the smallest election district, which is Rota as the Constitution requires, and cannot be determined arbitrarily.

Results of the 2010 U.S. Census show that Rota's population dropped to 2,527, from 3,283 in 2000.

Saipan's population went down to 48,220 in 2010, from 62,392 in 2000.

Sablan said if his interpretation is correct, one should divide Saipan's population by that of Rota's population based

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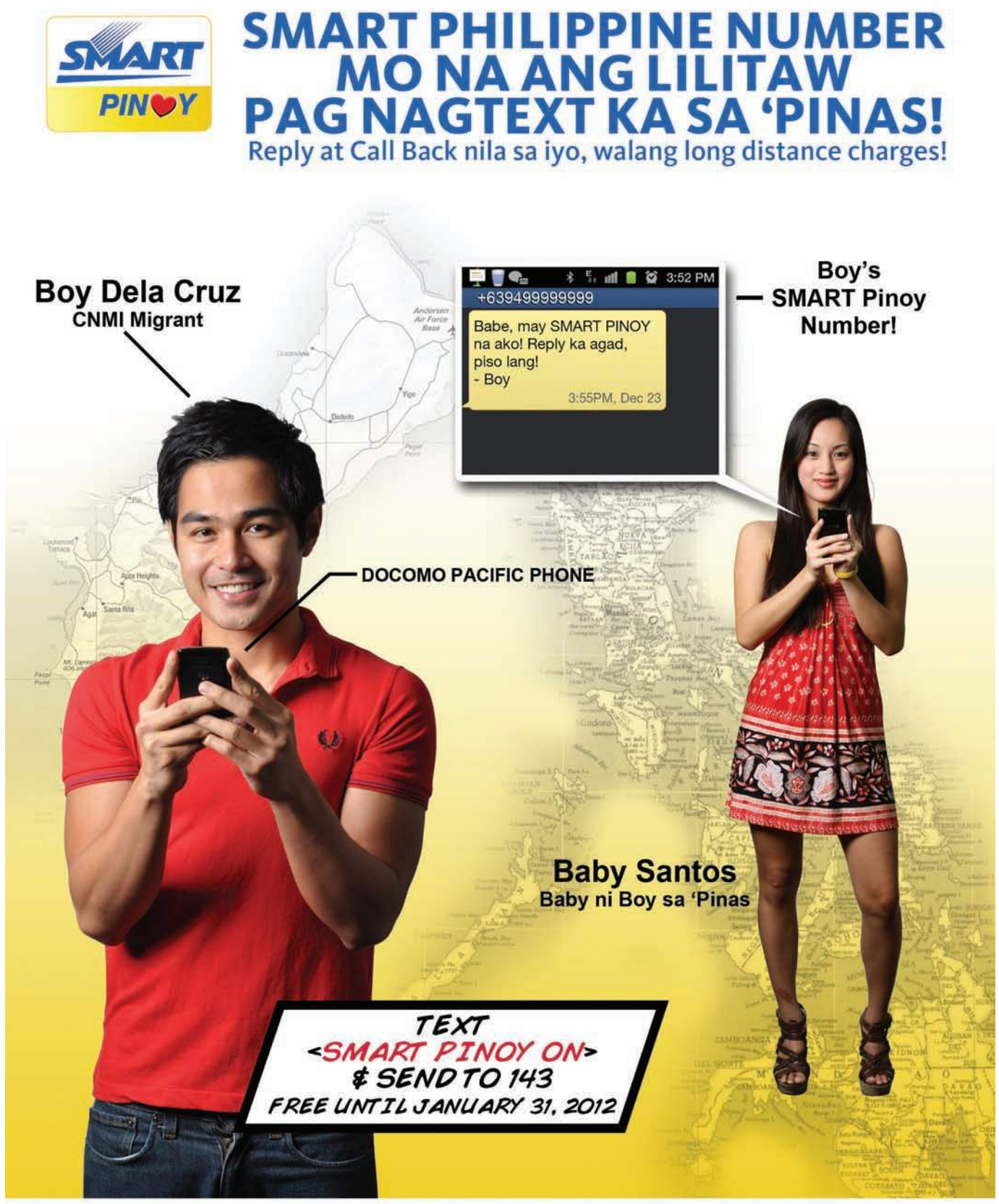
Local



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5.3 quake jolts Marianas

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A 5.3-magnitude earthquake occurred near Rota yesterday afternoon and the temblor was also felt on Saipan, Tinian, and Guam.

Emergency Management Office director Jack Omar told *Saipan Tribune* that there were no immediate reports of injuries and damage to property on Rota. EMO also did not receive reports of injuries or property damage on Saipan, Tinian, and Guam.

Omar called the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center and was told that no tsunami threat is expected for the Marianas region.

Omar said the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center normally issues a notice of tsunami threat when the earthquake's magnitude is at least 6.0.

According to EMO and the U.S. Geological Services, the temblor occurred at 2:42pm (Saipan time) at a depth of 117 kilometers.

The epicenter was about 74 miles south southwest of Saipan, 146 miles south southwest of Anatahan, and 11 miles north northwest of Rota.

The temblor lasted several seconds.

Omar said the reason for the earthquake was probably the shifting of tectonic plates, which is normal. Many people on Saipan felt the earthquake probably because the epicenter was very close to the island, he said.

A Superior Court staff said she was on her computer when she noticed the bookshelf shake for about two seconds.

A student of Marianas High School said she was inside the classroom when the room was jolted for about three seconds. She said there was no panic at school.

CNMI deputy marshal Jess Santos said he was at the CNMI courts' screening area when police officers came down the stairs, stating there's an earthquake. Santos said no one was running and that he did not even feel it.

Manta band to skip Guam music festival

Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band will miss this year's Tumon Bay Music Festival after the group decided to skip the competition due to lack of funds.

Will DeWitt, the band's conductor and music director, said the students themselves decided to forego the Guam competition to save for their upcoming trip to the 2012 Summer Olympics in London. The group needs to raise $300,000 for their London trip.

"Generally, the cost of joining the Tumon Bay is $30,000 so we elected to save that money for our Olympic trip," DeWitt told *Saipan Tribune*.

He assured, though, that the band will return to the Guam competition in 2013.

Although the band itself will skip the competition, at least 10 soloists, most of them pianists, will still compete in the Guam festival, which is slated from March 2 to 10.

The band has been participating in the Tumon Bay Music Festival for three years (2008, 2009, and 2011) and has been its champion for the same number of years. The band skipped the event in 2010 so it could participate in the New York music festival where it took home a silver medal.

So far, the group has raised close to $100,000 for their Olympic trip, DeWitt said. He is optimistic that they can raise the needed amount before August.

The school plans to send 50-member contingency and 10 chaperons to London. The London Olympic Games will be held on July 27 to Aug. 12, 2012.

The Manta Ray Band performed at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

Fund's home loan program for sale

The NMI Retirement Fund is selling its member home loan program after its board of trustees approved yesterday the issuance of a request for proposal.

Board chair Sixto K. Igisomar told *Saipan Tribune* that selling the program will allow the Fund to concentrate on the pension plan.

Other programs under the agency such as the Workers Compensation Commission and the Group Health Life Insurance Program are also being considered for transfer to other agencies, Igisomar said.

Bills now pending at the Legislature propose to transfer WCC to the Commerce Department and the GHLIP to either the Office of Management and Budget or Office of Personnel Management.

Fund records show that there are 106 loans under the program; 31 are considered bad loans or delinquents. Of these bad loans, only two can be potentially collected while the rest are classified as "dead accounts."

"I know there are some differences in opinion among members and trustees in the past and even now…and I understand that…but you just don't wait until you have 80-percent delinquency when nobody wants to buy it anymore," Igisomar said. He believes that selling the program now is "something that we need to do" at this time.

The Fund has a total investment of $5.5 million in the program. As of December 2010, bad loans amounted to nearly $800,000. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

Fund: New contracts for Wilshire, Buck underway

The NMI Retirement Fund is preparing new contracts for its former investment and actuarial consultants after both agreed to return to the pension agency, according to Fund administrator Richard Villagomez.

The board discussed the proposed contract for investment consultant Wilshire Associates in a closed-door session that lasted more than two hours. Board chair Sixto Igisomar later told *Saipan Tribune* that board members put off any decision on Wilshire's contract pending some clarifications.

Although the contract is new, there will be no changes to Wilshire's fees, he added.

For the actuarial consultant position, Villagomez said that Buck Consultants is now drafting a new contract. He gave a two-week timeframe to finalize both contracts.

The two terminated their services to the Fund, along with money managers, after the enactment of the Beneficiaries' Derivative Act, which allows retirees to sue on behalf of the Fund. That law has since been repealed.

The Fund has put off making any decision about the return of its money managers until after Wilshire is back onboard. "Once Wilshire is back onboard, we will seek their advice where to put the money," Villagomez said.

At present, the Fund has $105 million in CDARS and $145 million in mutual funds. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

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House OKs elected AG initiative

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives passed yesterday an initiative authorizing the election of a CNMI attorney general with major changes to the original version.

"We are inching our way," Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune.*

Dela Cruz, author of the initiative, said that passing it in the House is only the first hurdle. "It still has to pass the Senate. And once it's on the ballot, voters still have to decide whether they like an elected AG or remain with the current system of having the governor appoint an AG. If voters approve an elected AG, we have to wait for the general elections to select from among AG candidates," he added.

Dela Cruz's House Legislative Initiative 17-2 passed the House by a vote of 18-1.

Only House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) voted "no," while Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) was absent.

Camacho reiterated that having an elected AG would make the position "more political" because instead of pleasing only the governor, for example, the elected AG has to please or earn the support of all voters. He said it would also be hard for anyone to get prosecuted on an AG election year.

Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), who previously voted against the initiative when the 17th House first acted on it in November 2010, threw his support behind the initiative yesterday, saying he played a major role in revising it.

There are three major changes to the original version of HLI 17-2: One, the annual salary is raised from $80,000 to $130,000. Two, the election of AG will be held during general elections and not during midterm elections. Three, the elected AG is responsible not only for providing legal advice to the governor and executive departments, but also to public corporations and autonomous agencies.

The CNMI is one of only 10 remaining U.S. jurisdictions that still have an appointed attorney general.

Under the initiative, which is now on its way back to the Senate, the elected AG would have a term of four years.

Dela Cruz hopes the Senate will pass the initiative. His goal is to have the initiative presented to voters in November. If voters approve it, the first election for AG will be in 2014.

1-year extension pushed for DPH office transfers

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) introduced a bill yesterday that extends by another 365 days or one year the period in which the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the governor would decide which offices will be transferred from the former Department of Public Health to the Office of the Governor.

The original law that created the corporation gave a 365-day extension for transition.

But Yumul said another 365-day extension is warranted, because this will give CHC time to better structure itself to providing critical health services and decide which offices it can really absorb.

The former DPH became a corporation effective Oct. 1, 2011. On Dec. 29, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed an executive order placing the Medicaid Office under the Office of the Governor, instead of being under CHC.

This plan takes effect 60 days after the Dec. 29 submission to the Legislature, unless specifically modified or disapproved by a majority of the members of each house of the Legislature. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

Man, 41, arrested for sex abuse of girl

Police arrested Wednesday afternoon a 41-year-old man for allegedly sexually abusing a 12-year-old girl since she was 8 or 9 years old on Tinian.

John Ibanez Carreon was taken to the Saipan Superior Court yesterday afternoon on charges of sexual abuse of a minor and child abuse. His bail was set at $50,000 cash. Preliminary hearing will be on Feb. 1, 2012 at 9am.

Detective Barbara Arend stated in her report that a concerned citizen called her on Monday about a sexual abuse victim who wanted to die. Arend said she immediately conducted an investigation that led to Carreon's arrest. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

STATUS

From Page 1

but the reality is that if you look at history our time frame is small," Sotomayor said at a news briefing.

Sotomayor, the first Latina member of the bench, is a native of Puerto Rico, which itself is struggling with its own choice for a new political status—statehood, free association or independence.

"I could probably argue all three views equally well. I know every argument that everybody makes," she said. "I say you could give me a position in a debate and I will defend it to the end and I will still not tell that I know what the answer is for…what the right choice is," Sotomayor added.

In reality, she said, a status change is a long and slow process. "I worry less about standing still because I think that change is something that happens incrementally," the associate justice said. "Certainly occasionally you have revolutionary change and some would say that each status adjustment that a territory had made is a form of its own revolutionary change but I probably see it more as evolutionary."

Sotomayor was the guest speaker at the conference held yesterday by U.S. District Court of Guam and the CNMI at the Guam Hilton Resort.

While in Guam, she is scheduled to meet with military officials, visit the Guam Memorial Hospital, and speak before students and faculty of the University of Guam. She will be in the CNMI this weekend.

When asked how she felt upon arrival, Sotomayor replied, "I thought I was back in Puerto Rico," citing the similarities between the two islands.

TERRITORIES

From Page 1

same fundamental rights that applies to other states due to a lack of "uniformity clause," Camacho said during a conference held yesterday by the U.S. District Court of Guam and the CNMI.

"The only benefits of U.S. citizenship that we enjoy is the right to travel," he added.

Rodney Jacob, president of the Guam Bar Association, said a U.S. citizen "has to live in the U.S. mainland to be able to enjoy their rights as citizens."

Jacob said the unfair treatment of U.S. citizens in insular territories can be gleaned from their lack of representation and their inability to participate in national elections and policy-making process.

University of Guam president Robert Underwood said "decades of experiences" have proven that citizenship doesn't guarantee benefits for territorial citizens.

"This is an intersection between policy making, politics, and the law," Underwood said, adding that no national candidate for any position run on a platform that advocates the rights and welfare of insular territories.

"Nobody gets elected to Congress who are [identifiable] with issues related to the territories," said Underwood, who served as Guam's delegate to Congress for 10 years.

At the same time, he said, the national government doesn't have an entity dedicated to colonial affairs.

Attorney June Mair noted that the benefits made available to Guam and the CNMI were much scarce compared to those afforded the states. She mentioned, for example, the low reimbursement rate for Medicaid offered to both jurisdictions, as well as the unavailability of funding for the earned income tax credit program, which other states receive from the federal government.

"EITC comes out of our own pockets; the people of Guam are shouldering a lot to fund the EITC," Mair said.

Underwood, however, said territories are not completely beyond reproach for their fates.

"It goes back to the way to articulate our vision; and we have no clear vision because we treat every issue independent of others," the UOG president said.

CENSUS

From Page 1

on the latest Census data, and this easily determines the proper number of House seats for Saipan. The answer is 19.

Rep. Joseph Palacios' (R-Saipan) pending initiative seeks to reduce to half the number of Saipan House members—from 18 to nine.

Sablan believes the proposed reduction is done "arbitrarily." He said the one man, one vote policy to allow for equal representation is at work here.

He also said there's already a precedent. For example, in 2007, two registered voters—former senator Frica Pangelinan and former representative Tina Sablan—asked the court to decide on reapportionment/redistricting when the Legislature and the governor failed to do so. At the time, the public expected the number of Saipan House seats to be reduced.

But the court instead increased the number of Saipan House seats from 16 to 18 because of the "one man, one vote" principle, said Sablan.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), meanwhile, questioned the accuracy of the U.S. Census Bureau data.

Yumul cited as an example the Census 2010 results showing that the village of Puerto Rico has a population of "zero." Yumul said this cannot be accurate because Puerto Rico has many residents, including their former neighbors who are still in the village.

He also said the two sets of Census results released by the U.S. Census Bureau on Aug. 24 and Aug. 6 do not show which village falls under which districts, and this makes it hard for the Legislature to decide on a reapportionment and redistricting plan required by the NMI Constitution following the release of Census results.

As of yesterday, the Legislature and the Office of the Governor have yet to determine whether the 120-day period for the Legislature to act on a reapportionment/redistricting plan started on Aug. 24 or Jan. 6. If the Legislature fails to do anything within that 120 days, then the governor could make his own plan. If the governor also fails to do anything, any registered voter could petition the court to make that decision.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), during yesterday's session, said he has learned that the governor could share the attorney general's opinion on the reapportionment/redistricting issue during today's luncheon meeting between the governor and lawmakers.

The closed-door meeting will be at World Resort Saipan.

USCIS

From Page 1

pending, Sebrechts said in response to media inquiries.

There is no set date yet as to when this "automatically extended" parole will expire.

Sebrechts said USCIS will plan this for the time needed to take biometrics and adjudicate the cases.

She also said if one has parole that expires Jan. 31, 2012, but has no pending application with USCIS, that person is not eligible for an automatic extension of parole.

"If you have a parole that expires Jan. 31, 2012, have a pending application with USCIS, but applied for parole before October 2011, you are not eligible for an automatic extension of parole," Sebrechts added.

Anyone else who is not covered by the three criteria listed above should visit the USCIS website at www.uscis.gov/cnmi for instructions on how to file for parole extension.

Reynato Cariazo, a finance manager, said he has yet to receive notification for a biometrics appointment some two months after a CW petition was filed on his behalf by his employer.

Cariazo, who has been working on Saipan for over six years, has a parole that expires on Jan. 31. He said he's relieved that he at least does not need to file for parole extension at this time.

He said it would be nice to find out the status of the CW petition filed on his behalf, although it has not reached that point where he's already worried.

Teddy Orbeta, a 44-year-old accountant also with pending CW petition, said he's not worried yet that he has not gotten a biometrics appointment. But if it's already March, for example, and he still does not have any biometrics appointment, he said he would start worrying.

"I plan to go on vacation in August for my son's 21st birthday. I hope by that time, I already have CW status," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Rene Reyes, founding president of the Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Ltd. or Mahal, said USCIS' announcement provides relief to those who are starting to be anxious about not receiving a receipt number for their pending CW application or those who have not received appointment notices for biometrics.

"Even though the announcement came in only a few days before the Jan. 31 expiration of parole, at least people know they don't need to file for extension," he said.

USCIS has said people who were paroled due to an expired permit must keep their parole current in order to maintain a legal presence in the United States.

USCIS has yet to have an update on the number of CW petitions it has received, how many have been granted so far, and how many rejected or denied, among other things.

As of the latest data of Dec. 9, USCIS received over 11,000 CW petitions from CNMI employers.

'It's not right'

Rabby Syed, president of United Workers Movement-NMI, said yesterday it's "sad" that USCIS has not said anything about the status of humanitarian parole applications filed mostly by immediate relatives of U.S. citizens.

"There's a lot of people who applied for humanitarian parole on or before the Nov. 28 deadline. It is not right that up to now, USCIS is not saying anything about their application status. I think it's time they know USCIS' decision," he said.

Reyes, for his part, believes that because CW applications alone couldn't be adjudicated near the Jan. 31 expiration of parole, there's a lesser chance for humanitarian parole applications to be decided at this time.

"Maybe we just have to understand that USCIS has backlog of CW and humanitarian parole applications. We may just have to be patient," he said.

Reyes called on USCIS not to give nonresidents a hard time granting advance parole or parole if they need to exit and re-enter the CNMI for "emergency" reasons such as a death in the family or major medical treatment.

USCIS announced in November that it will grant, on a case-by-case basis, parole for immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and certain "stateless" individuals. That parole, if granted, will expire on Dec. 31, 2012.

Many nonresidents who have been working in the CNMI for years and lost their jobs when the economy tanked applied for humanitarian parole, mainly because they do not want to be separated from their minor U.S. citizen children in the CNMI.

Most of those covered by this so-called "IR parole" are those who would benefit from Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan's H.R. 1466, a bill that seeks a grant of CNMI-only resident status to four groups of people, including immediate relatives of U.S. citizens. The bill remains pending in Congress.

Sablan, before going back to Washington, D.C., said he will continue to push for HR 1466's passage.

Fitial to meet with Sotomayor on Sunday

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will be joining a reception for U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor on Sunday on Saipan, press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday.

"The Fitial administration is honored to have a sitting Supreme Court justice visit the Commonwealth," Demapan said. "Despite the challenges we face, the CNMI is still a member of the American political family. Thus, the administration is grateful that Justice Sotomayor has chosen to make this visit in an effort to learn about the way of life here [on] the islands as well as to meet with other justices, judges, and members of the bar association."

This will be the first time that Fitial will meet Sotomayor.

Sotomayor was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court in 2009 and is the court's 111th justice, its first Hispanic justice, and its third female justice.

Sotomayor arrived in Guam on Wednesday night for the annual conferences hosted by the District Court of Guam and the District Court of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan earlier told the media that Sotomayor has invited members of the CNMI congressional mock trial champion team to a personal dialogue on Jan. 29 at the American Memorial Park.

In Guam, Sotomayor will also hold a question-and-answer session with some 1,500 elementary to university students at the University of Guam Field House today. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

Daewoo wants suit by mason dismissed

A construction company has asked the district court to dismiss the claim filed against it by a mason who sued after he was allegedly hit by an errant golf ball at Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Saipan Daewoo Engineering and Construction Co. Ltd., through counsel Colin Thompson, said the U.S. District Court for the NMI should dismiss Severino U. Alforeza Jr.'s claim because it is barred by the statute of limitation, which limits claims for injury or death to two years.

Thompson said that based on the facts alleged in the complaint, the action was brought against Daewoo more than two years after the action accrued. "Therefore, the claims against Daewoo must be dismissed because of the statute of limitations," he said.

Alforeza alleges in his complaint that he was injured on July 18, 2009, after he was hit by a golf ball. He filed the original lawsuit on April 13, 2011, suing Saipan LauLau Development Inc., owner of LaoLao Bay Gold & Resort, and unnamed co-defendant. On Dec. 15, 2011, he filed an amended lawsuit, adding Daewoo and John Jones as co-defendants.

Alforeza is demanding unspecified damages. He is represented by attorney Joe Hill. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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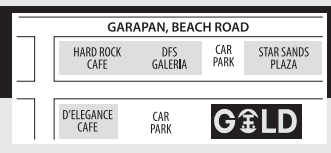

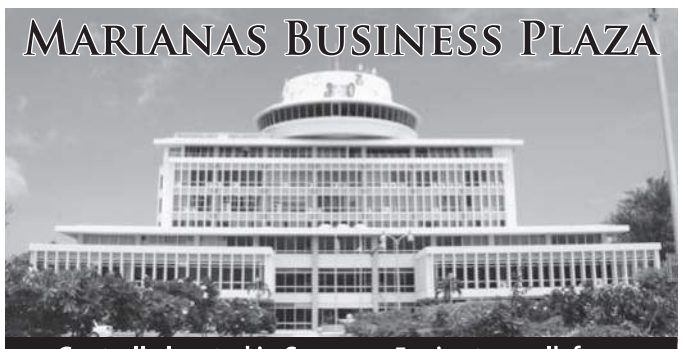

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Class suit vs Mobil dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman has dismissed a class action lawsuit filed by Rep. Janet U. Maratita (Ind.-Saipan) and three other persons against Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc.

In granting Mobil Oil's motion to dismiss, Wiseman determined that Maratita and her co-plaintiffs, Joaquin Q. Atalig, Jose P. Kiyoshi and Felipe Q. Atalig, have not pleaded enough facts to support their claim.

The plaintiffs are accusing Mobil of not using the proper equipment to ensure that harmful chemicals do not leak into the environment when transporting, loading, and storing fuel products. They filed the class action on behalf of all persons who lived in the CNMI from Dec. 16, 1997 to the present.

The plaintiffs, through attorney Ramon Quichocho, asked the court to shut down Mobil's Saipan terminal and order the oil firm to pay them damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

In his written order issued Tuesday, Wiseman said the plaintiffs have not properly pleaded injury in their complaint, nor have they pleaded facts that support their demand for punitive damages.

On the nuisance issue, Mobil argues that nuisance is not properly pled because the harm alleged is the same as the harm suffered by the general public.

Public nuisance is "any unreasonable interference with a right common to the general public."

Wiseman said plaintiffs have not alleged injury distinctive from that suffered by the general public, and have therefore, not properly alleged nuisance.

On the battery claim, Wiseman said the plaintiffs have not pled why allegedly inhaling chemicals amounts to an offense on their personal dignity or are unwarranted by prevalent social usages.

The emissions were not a service that Mobil introduced into commerce, the judge noted.

The court, he said, does not find that the acts alleged, allowing emissions to enter the environment illegally, are not the type of harm the CNMI Consumer Protection Act was designed to safeguard.

Therefore, the judge added, the claim under the Consumer Protection Act fails to state a legally cognizable claim.

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Tinian Cultural Center to open tomorrow

The Inetnon Amot yan Kutturan Natibu/Mwiischil Safey me Kkoor Aramasal Faluw (Association of Native Medicine and Culture), in partnership with the Tinian Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and Office of the Mayor of Tinian, announced yesterday the opening of the Tinian Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Center at the Man'amko Center in San Jose, Tinian, this Saturday, Jan. 28, 2012.

After the ceremonial opening, which starts at 8:30am, there will be a lesson on making "apigigi." Other light refreshments will also be served.

The Tinian Cultural Center is part of the cultural centers that were made possible in part by a two-year grant from the Administration for Native Americans, given to the Inetnon Amot yan Kutturan Natibu/Mwiischil Safey me Kkoor Aramasal Faluw. During the first year of the grant, the Rota Chamorro Cultural Center at the DCCA compound in Songsong Village opened on March 19, 2011, and the Saipan Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Center Headquarters on Capital Hill opened on March 26, 2011.

The purpose of the centers is to provide opportunities to Chamorros and Carolinians to learn their traditional knowledge and practices, including the encouragement of speaking their native languages. It is hoped that some of the traditional knowledge and practices will help the indigenous people gain financial benefit using the natural resources available in the Mariana Islands. There will be a gift shop at each center that is open to the public.

The cultural centers on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan will be offering lessons on traditional knowledge and practices to Chamorros and Carolinians on two Saturdays a month. The public is encouraged see the local papers on Fridays to see the kind of activity that will be done on a particular Saturday, or you may call 532-9350 on Rota, 433-9220 on Tinian, or 322-0278 on Saipan. The Rota center coordinator is Beck Kani and the Tinian center coordinator is Raymon B. Sablan. ***(PR)***

CULTURAL LESSONS

There will be free lessons to Chamorros and Carolinians on making old fashioned toys and playing games at the Saipan Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Centers Headquarters (1213 Capitol Hill Rd, across the Workforce Investment Agency and next to the CNMI Board of Parole Office) this Saturday, Jan. 28, 2011. The lessons are from 9:30am to about 12pm. Parents and grandparents are encouraged bring their children for this activity. You may also bring empty sardine cans (the big oval kind) with you to the Center.

This Saturday's activities at the Rota Chamorro Cultural Center (in the DCCA office compound) include making Bayogu ants doll, coconut shell bracelet-heart design, beads bracelets, and dry seeds ornaments. The lessons on Rota start at 10am. ***(PR)***

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan 27, 1999

CHC Volunteers gets $2,000 from Pacificare

The Commonwealth Health Center Volunteers Association announced that it received a check in the amount $2,000 from Pacificare Health Systems, Inc. "The donation will be used in the upgrading of the Hemodialysis Unit Systems. This type of financial assistance is vital to our organization's effort and we certainly appreciate Pacificare's support," according to CHC Voluntcers spokesperson Susan Schwarz. Pacificare Foundation President Bill Wood notes: "We believe strongly in giving back to the communities we serve. We are pleased to support such a worthwhile organization as the CHC Volunteers and look forward to assisting it in meeting the community's vital needs."

CPA seeks funding to repair breakwater

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has asked CNMI representative to Washington Juan N. Babauta for assistance in looking for sources of funding to be able to complete the $25.5 million rehabilitation of Tinian breakwater. While the ports authority recognizes the need for its immediate repair, it cannot do anything to solve the problem because the rehabilitation is beyond its financial capability. As Tinian is heavily dependent on its seaport for trade and tourism, the ports authority experessed concern that the worsening situation may endanger the peoples lives and disrupt their source of livelihood.

Jan 27, 2000

CDA notes hike in loans

Reeling from the adverse impact of the economic downturn, more businesses have resorted to loans from both public and private financing companies with the government's Commonwealth Development Authority lending over $5 million in a three-month period alone. Government statistics for the second quarter of 1999 indicated that at the trend CDA is giving out loans, the government-controlled finance institution may have exceeded the previous year's $8 million tally. Records obtained from the Economic Development Division of the Department of Commerce showed that CDA approved $5.1 million in guarantee loans during the second quarter of 1999, up from the previous year's $200,000.

MVA asked to vacate airport space

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is asking the government's tourism agency to vacate the space it currently occupies at the Saipan International Airport to pave the way for the relocation of CPA's operations division. Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said the use of the Saipan airport building space has been extended by CPA to Marianas Visitors Authority's Field Operations Division. "[However] our operational needs have become such that we must kindly ask that the MVA find a new home for its Field Operations Division," said Mr. Salas in a letter to MVA Managing Director Perry J. Tenorio.

Jan 27, 2003

Bill to take DPH to task on dead animals in public roads

The Senate recently passed legislation that will make removing animal carcass from public roads a task for the Department of Public Health and Environmental Services. Senate Bill 13-112 intends to take the said responsibility away from the Department of Public Safety. According to the Senate, the DPS should stay focused on its community policing duties. Public Law 6-37 Section 3(d) as set forth in 2 CMC § 3412(d) has made removing animal remains found on public roads a secondary responsi-bility for the police department, SB 13-112 cited. The bill, authored by Sen. Joaquin G. Adriano, contends that the DPS would be in a better position to concentrate on drug interdiction, homicide and armed robbery inves-tigations and traffic enforcement if the DPH took over the responsibility.

NMI to get $780,000 in HUD funds

As part of President Bush's ongoing effort to increase affordable housing and minority homeownership in Hawaii and other insular areas, including the Northern Marianas, Housing and Urban Developing Secretary Mel Martinez announced a proposed $354,000 increase for the Department's HOME Investment Partnerships Program. The announcement is part of the Bush Administration's fiscal year 2004 budget request of Congress, a five-percent boost over current funding that would provide Hawaii communities more than $8.3 million. Martinez also announced increases for American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Marianas. American Samoa would receive $410,000, an increase of $21,000.

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White Sugar 2kg $2.79 2 KG.
Argo Corn Starch 99¢ 1 LB.
Gold Medal Flour $3.49 5 LBS.
Real Fresh Milk 32oz $21.50 CASE
Foremost Milk $20.49 CASE
Tang Orange $8.99 22 QTS.
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Maxwell Coffee Mix $7.99 100CT.
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Opening salvo of Obama campaign

President Barack Obama left no doubt in Tuesday night's State of the Union address that he has shifted into all-out campaign mode as he focused on economic fairness and equality—all in a tone designed to ratchet up the pressure on Congress.

The president spent considerable time detailing a laundry list of proposals—most of them with uncertain prospects. He deftly co-opted several Republican positions and focused on others that played to his Democratic base. His pitch was to Americans anxious about their futures, as he renewed calls for better education, an American manufacturing resurgence and cleaner energy.

A prevailing message was that poor and middle-class Americans are falling behind and that Americans must pull together. "We can either settle for a country where a shrinking number of people do really well, while a growing number of Americans barely get by," he said, "or we can restore an economy where everyone gets a fair shot, everyone does their fair share, and everyone plays by the same set of rules."

Clearly, Obama has decided to double down on a populist bet with November in mind. What is less clear is whether this bet will set groundwork for any significant legislative accomplishments this year. In a strong Republican response to the president, Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels said, "We do not accept that ours will ever be a nation of haves and have-nots; we must always be a nation of haves and soon-to-haves. It's not fair and it's not true for the president to attack Republicans in Congress as obstacles to economic recovery."

By campaigning past the Congress and straight to the American people, Obama also has set up a clear contrast between his vision and that of Republicans, who say his policies have been an onerous burden on free enterprise and the overall economy. But it remains to be seen whether Obama's message is what most Americans want or whether the president will put enough of his political capital into pushing his initiatives in Congress. The nation has heard variations of these proposals before, but Obama has failed to follow through forcefully.

A test of Obama's 2012 blueprint will come soon. On Wednesday, he will begin a tour of five states that are key to his re-election bid in an effort to promote his plans for American manufacturing, energy, college affordability, education and training.

Back in Washington, the extension of a payroll tax cut and unemployment insurance benefits will expire in February. And there will be yet another showdown later in the year, this one over about $1.2 trillion in otherwise automatic spending cuts and the scheduled expiration of former President George W. Bush's tax cuts.

The president offered a far more hopeful—and even bipartisan—tone than some had expected. But with an economy recovering too slowly, words alone won't get the job done.

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AND WE WILL CHANGE HOW THE GOVERNMENT TREATS SMALL BUSINESSES AND ENTREPRENEURS.
HE'S GOING FROM SLOTTED TO PHILLIPS HEAD.

The Om

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

Today marks the 62nd Republic Day of India, after its Constitution finally took effect in 1950. The day also marks the self-rule independence declaration of 1930, though India's Independence Day from England is celebrated on Aug. 15, after its independence from the British Empire in 1947.

Combining the sounds *aa, au,* and *ma,* one gets *Om* or *Aum,* the Hindu representation of the "Absolute," the "One" and the "All." It is related to the Latin "M," the Arabic "Amen," the Greek "Alpha-Omega," and the words "omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent." It is also the OM in the Buddhist declaration of absolute compassion, *om mani padme hum*.

It was in the late '70s in Aurangabad, Maharashtra, when I wandered into the town bazaar on a humid August day. I stood between a caprine/ovine pens where goats and lambs liberally spread their droppings on the ground mixed with the rotten leaves of their dinner on one side, and stalls of bottled oil exuding distilled fragrances on the other. No one seemed bothered by what we experienced as a conflict of scents until I noticed a storefront brushing fresh bovine dung on its wall and dried ones to fuel the fire. Then I understood what taking all and embracing the totality of existence meant. Inhaling and exhaling simultaneously, I uttered my first genuine *Om*.

I am reminded of the Indian all-encompassing sacred *Om* today, while watching President Barack Obama of the United States deliver his annual State of the Union address before Congress, the justices of the Supreme Court, the Cabinet, and 750 guests up in the gallery. In a masterful tour de force that was at once presidential and a spirited election campaign speech, Obama gave an American can-do and can-be, yes-we-can speech, in full bloom of confident resolve and imaginative optimism.

To be sure, the President had words that may not be welcomed on Wall Street, in China, and Congress, but they were objectively delivered without the harsh accusatory overtones common and typical of the sarcastic taunting that seem to now identify American political discourse.

In like manner, the response from Indiana Republican Governor Mitch Daniels who played "loyal opposition" quibbled a bit on the side about minor matters but the clarity of his prepared response that the situation is not a matter of disagreement of philosophy or principles but on mathematics and practice was made clear, resulting in the event as hardly the media's anticipated locking of horns between combative adversaries.

To begin with, the adversarial climate beclouding every reporting media these days is not only true in politics but even in the arts. Comments about the list of Oscar award nominations, for example, are focused on what and who is not on the list rather than on the merits of the nominations made. We commented recently on the *New York Times* review of Zhang Yimou's *The Flowers of War* where the critic belabored what the movie did not portray and missed what was depicted altogether.

Pundits criticizing Obama or the GOP candidates often pick on what candidates do not say or do, rather than on what was said or done. This litany of failure grabs more attention in a way that a narrative of what was accomplished cannot. We drown continually in our time in the sea of public relations so our first instinct is to distrust the validity of ordinary claims and seek hidden agendas or prepackaged messages.

Subtle change occurred when Gabrielle Giffords attended the 2011 SOTU and members of Congress partnered with their counterparts on the other side of the divide. They did so again this year. Though the gesture did not extend into the voting record last year, the call for traversing party lines uttered by both Obama and Daniels could very well bring seriousness to the projected image that the Union might have some setbacks, but it is far from being KO'd in the new global ring of fire!

Increasingly, the militant American Christian nation of archangel Michael and the predatory eagle is finding some of its sensitive souls echoing the *Om* of another clime.

Obama did begin and end with images of the warriors of war, which sounded like the *Empire Strikes Back* on the OCCUPY folks. Yet, he drew a distinct line: "What's at stake is the very survival of the basic American promise that if you work hard, you can do well enough to raise a family, own a home, and put a little away for retirement. The *defining issue of our time* is how to keep that promise alive. No challenge is more urgent; no debate is more important. We can either settle for a country where a shrinking number of people do really well, while more Americans barely get by. Or we can build a nation where *everyone gets a fair shot, everyone does their fair share, and everyone plays by the same rules*" (italics added).

In Governor Daniels' Republican response, he declared: "So 2012 is a year of true opportunity, maybe our last, to restore an America of hope and upward mobility, and greater equality. The challenges aren't matters of ideology, or party preference; the problems are simply mathematical, and the answers are purely practical."

We might differ on the "think" but if we agree on the "do," let's. America of hope, it is, for everyone. *Namaste. Om.*

Success, or something close to it

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

If there's one thing in the world bigger and more enduring than Mt. Tapochau, it's the towering pile of books about how to be successful. The shelves of modern bookstores are fairly constipated with such tomes. Some of them are thoughtful. Others, however, are merely anthologies of pop-psychology bromides, feeding an emotional society's hunger for feel-good slogans and easy answers.

Which is all fine with me. I don't have a dog in the fight.

But it's a fine day to sit on my lawn chair and think big thoughts. After all, I'm too undisciplined today to actually perform any work. My day has been entirely unsuccessful.

So, by my law of contrary logic, it makes a perfect day to contemplate success. Or at least something close to it, since I can't really define it. Anyway, I'll list what I think are the three top factors that seemed to help the successful people I've known.

Let's heed that "I've known" clause. I'm not offering a grand theory of success here. I have no such theory. I'm just scrolling through my mental Rolodex, pulling some cards, and noting what they seem to have in common.

I'm not claiming these are the only three factors at issue. Nor am I claiming that randomness itself is not a huge factor. After all, a wino can stagger into a liquor store, buy a lotto ticket, and wind up being a multi-millionaire. Ah, now there's the rub! Randomness is the hobgoblin of little minds these days, so if people would rather bet on the wino than a trust fund kid going to Harvard medical school, then who am I to argue?

1). Family money

From what I've seen, people who start off life with solid money behind them are far more likely to be successful than those who don't. I'm confident enough in the correlation to consider the matter open, and now closed.

But I am going to take a tangent because of Saipan's crossroads status in the Pacific.

Indeed, the eastern and the western attitudes toward this realm (the role of family wealth in generational success) are pretty much opposite. Therefore, a wise person will marry into the culture that meshes with their own outlook.

Not everyone heeds this fact. I'm starting to see some East meets West marriages turning into East met West divorces these days. The largest instigating factor, based on the tales of woe I am forced to listen to as I am served green tea and almond cookies, is the disparate cultural outlooks on "filial piety."

Well, you've been warned. So don't come crying to me. I never liked almond cookies.

2). Business skill or top credentials

Most of the successful people I've known have been entrepreneurs or professionals with credentials, such as surgeons, dentists, airline pilots, senior engineers, ship captains, lawyers, and financial pros.

The small remainder is a few artists (writers and actors) who hit the big time. When actors hit the big time, they really hit it big, but I have no idea how the dynamics of success work in the industry.

It's hard to boil it all down, but if I had to guess, based on what I've seen, the most reliable means of being reasonably successful is to take the "professional with credentials" route, handling one's money and affairs responsibly, while branching out into business endeavors (such as apartment ownership) on the side.

While the entrepreneurs can hit occasional home runs, getting rich enough to buy their own jets, the solid professionals seem to enjoy far more reliable base hits, at least knowing they'll probably be comfortable. One cruel fact of life is that people probably don't know until after the fact which path would be the right one for them, at which point, of course, it's too late.

3). Social skills

Of the highly successful people I've known, including guys well-heeled enough to own their own jets and who hired paupers like me to fly them, every singe one of them had good manners and social skills. All were pleasant to be around. Most were downright charming.

Only one was introverted. He was an Ivy-league mathematician who got big bucks in consulting, but he was nonetheless a very pleasant guy.

Incidentally, the popular concept of smart people and "nerds" paints them as introverts, but, though I've looked for the correlation, I've never seen it.

Revenue: The NMI is broke!

» CHC under life support today

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

CHC is now on life support, financially. "There's no money anywhere that could be earmarked to support operations under a new management or health corporation," a source said. "The intent to leave it under new management team was fine until it was left on its own with $5 million in initial funds to commence operation." CHC used to receive about $27 million in annual budget until last fiscal year when it was severed from the regular NMI budget.

The new CEO ponders where to begin with zero funding. He could grab his briefcase and leave without ever coming back, cut hospital operations by half that includes firing over 100 ancillary and professional staff deemed excess baggage, slash boilerplate expenses that have been entrenched in the system for the last 30 years. The latter doesn't add value to improving healthcare delivery but benefits solely the recipients.

Doctors who aren't regular surgeons at CHC performed some 33 percent of total surgeries in 2011. CHC general surgeons performed about 48.56 percent of surgeries the same year. OB/GYN surgeons performed some 18.21 percent of total surgeries. Statistics compiled on the performance of two surgeons hired by CHC show they've underperformed against the national norm of eight surgeries per day. "And they're complaining of being overworked and are pushing for a third surgeon," the source related.

With underperformance, these doctors won't have it easy. "Any other private hospital in the U.S. mainland and these guys would have been booted out for underperforming."

Interesting too how free use of CHC by private physicians (from eight clinics) was permitted with nothing accruing (revenue-wise) to the local hospital. For instance, let's say that you're pregnant and you agreed that Dr. X from a private clinic handles your pregnancy through delivery. When that day arrives, your doctor provides care for the delivery of your baby. He charges you fees for such service, all of which goes to his account, none for CHC, though he used the facility, nurse's assistance, medicine, and supplies for this purpose.

It's called freebies to which funds went in only one direction or the doctor's bank account.

There are local doctors who were retained for lack of doctors for a hefty fee. They come in and mingle with patients, look at their time then quietly leave for their own clinics. It's almost a bonus for mingling (without much medical work done) to the tune of over $100K per year. This entrenched practice too must stop forthwith. It doesn't add value to the quality of healthcare other than drain the hospital of direly needed funds. It's the equivalent of a nice bonus no one in planet Marianas receives!

Then there's the discovery of CHC doctors moonlighting in private clinics. This must be probed for it may run contrary to the Physicians Inducement Kickback Regulation (PEKR) prohibiting doctors from moonlighting. I mean, it's either CHC or the private clinic; you can't have it both ways. Your contract, paid for by local funds, simply requires your service at CHC, not moonlighting in private clinics. This scheme must be investigated and prosecuted to end it with finality. "These are highly paid doctors who are receiving housing and repatriation benefits, a practice entrenched in the system that must change," the source said. It's nothing short of greed that must cease forthwith!

Do I sense that these guys have no sense of their obligations here? I'd like to meet them if only to explore if they've invested in expensive yachts or other leisurely boats for pleasure. I'm not going to deny you your day in the sun, but where underperformance is at issue, perhaps some sense of commitment may be in order where you take your clientele and financial condition of the CNMI to heart. You're not exempted from fulfilling medical fiduciary

See REVENUE on Page 13

Medicaid

By DAVID KHORRAM, MD
Special to the Saipan Tribune

David Khorram, MD is the CNMI's only ophthalmologist and the medical director of Marianas Eye Institute. Prior to founding the eye clinic, he worked at the Commonwealth Health Center. Dr. Khorram is listed in Guide to America's Top Ophthalmologists. *For comments or questions, call 235-9090.*

It hasn't been a good week for healthcare in the CNMI; not for healthcare as an industry and certainly not for the families who rely upon Medicaid to cover their healthcare expenses.

With the announcement last week that Medicaid payments to local providers will be capped at $1.3 million, a reduction from last year's spending of around $9 million, those of us in healthcare hear the grim reaper arriving within the next few weeks. As the policies to stay below this cap are implemented, the scythe will begin to cut down medical practices and patients alike.

It has never been easy to provide care for the Medicaid program. Whereas most insurance companies pay within 45 or 60 days for services, most of us receive payment from Medicaid once, maybe twice a year. In a good year, we might get paid once a quarter. It has always been unpredictable. Many providers often considered ending their contracts with Medicaid but always held on because although the payments were slow in coming, they came. We understood that the Medicaid office has hardworking people, but is short-staffed. We waited patiently. And it worked. Not ideally, but it worked.

Now, with a annual $5.3 million cap—$4 million for the hospital and $1.3 million for private providers—we know that limits will have to be placed either on the amount paid per service, on the range of services covered, or both. No private provider can afford to see the same number of patients they are currently seeing and take an 86-percent reduction in reimbursement for providing those same services. The Medicaid program knows that. We can take a bit of a cut but we can't provide services below our costs. That's just a reality. Most of us understand the difficulties of the economy and are able to take some reduction in reimbursement, but nothing on the scale called for by the $1.3 million cap. There may be some fat to be trimmed, but not $8 million worth. Everyone knows that too.

If private providers cannot afford to care for the Medicaid population, those patients will have nowhere to go but to the hospital. And even there, the $4 million set aside will not cover the hospital's costs to care for all those patients. Furthermore, with the flood of patients to CHC, their staff will become overwhelmed and overworked, and as we have seen throughout the years, in such situations staff quit. They go back to the mainland, where the pay is better, and where they can practice medicine in a setting that is not so acutely stressed. The entire healthcare system and the health of the island suffers as we lose doctors in important specialties.

And what about the health of those on Medicaid? In my experience, the sickest patients I have are those on Medicaid. I treat hundreds of Medicaid patients a year with diabetic eye disease. If they don't get the treatment they need, they go blind. I treat those with cataracts. If they don't get the surgery they need, they lose their ability to see. And although people fear going blind more than dying, the reality is that when the Medicaid program cannot pay for medications or ongoing care or even preventive care, people—maybe you, or your parent or your child—will die. The human body doesn't really understand economics. Science has its own cruel equations that do not bend to budgets.

No one thinks that you can reduce services by 86 percent and still provide the same level of healthcare. So the Medicaid program is faced with some excruciating choices about which illnesses will be treated and which will not; which medications will be covered and which will not; who, in the grand scheme of things, will live, and who will die. I don't envy their position.

See MEDICAID on Page 14

Letter to the Editor

Unsolved crimes

I have heard many rumors from friends regarding the break in and subsequent theft of items from the Northern Marianas Trades Institute. Folks are saying DPS did not even bother to dust for fingerprints or even have the common sense to ask for the serial numbers and description of the items stolen. If this is true of DPS' investigative techniques, then it explains why so many crimes remain unsolved in the CNMI.

Paul Beebe
Spokane, Washington

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°

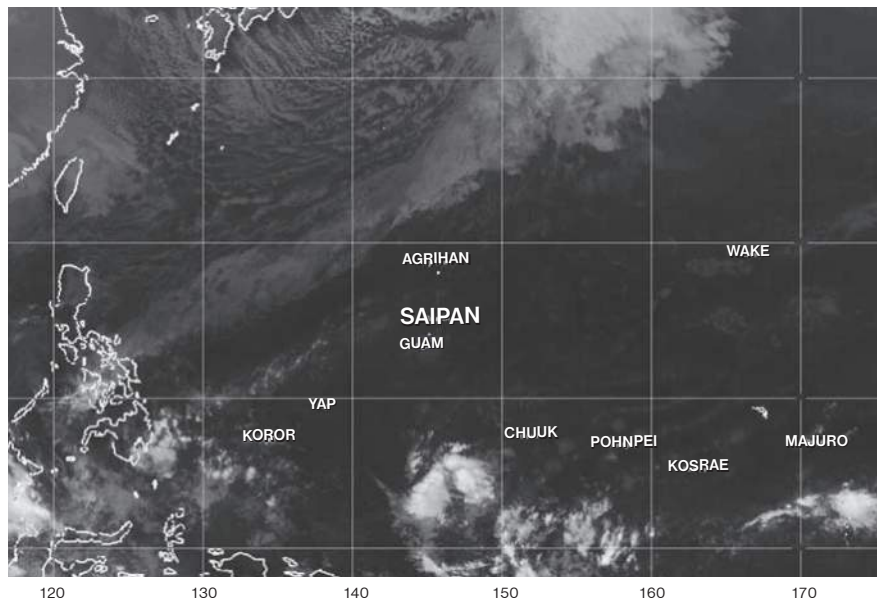
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲84	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼80
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼80
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼61
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲31	▼13
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲68	▼60
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲79	▼71
London	Partly Cloudy	▲45	▼37
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲76	▼51
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼75
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼63
Miami	Thundershowers	▲82	▼66
New York	Rain	▲51	▼32
Osaka	Cloudy	▲45	▼37
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲47	▼35
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲41	▼30
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲58	▼35
Salem	Sunny	▲47	▼30
San Francisco	Sunny	▲64	▼44
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲32	▼18
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲45	▼32
Washington, DC	Rain	▲50	▼36

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front runs southwestward from 25N150E to 18N140E then continues as a shear line to beyond 14N130E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and within 300 miles north of the boundary. A surface trough runs northwestward from EQ150E to 6N145E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the trough are found southwest of Chuuk between 2N and 7N from 144E to 149E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Chuuk and Pohnpei between the equator and 3N from 150E to 160E and over Butaritari near Tarawa within 100 miles of a line from 1N165E to 5N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:11 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
10:36 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
4:59 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
10:10 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:12 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM
Monday	6:47 AM	6:14 PM
Tuesday	6:46 AM	6:14 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:10 AM	9:35 PM
Saturday	9:47 AM	10:22 PM
Sunday	10:25 AM	11:10 PM
Monday	11:03 AM	11:59 PM
Tuesday	11:44 AM	

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

REVENUE

From Page 11

responsibilities and it's good to forward your name to the American Medical Association for censure in the event you've violated PEKR.

I've also discovered that tiny glass containers where nurses or doctors draw liquid medicine (used by private clinics) are incinerated at CHC, packed, crated and shipped off island—all at the hospital's expense. It may not be much, but one shipment after another for an entire year could add up to a sizeable bundle for use at the local hospital. This freebie too must end forthwith. The constellation of entrenched wasteful and costly spending must cease to exist and efforts focused on funneling as much money to the coffers of the local hospital to pay for its operations.

It's unfortunate too that there are dialysis patients who receive thrice a week treatment to cleanse their blood from toxins. The only problem is they have no health insurance or out of pocket income. To dialyze a patient costs about $6,000 per month. It pans out to $72,000 per patient per year. Now, let's say the dialysis center has 20 patients drawing freebies from dialysis. The annual freebie is about $1.44 million per year. So what's at issue? Does CHC continue shouldering free provision of a costly service?

To make matters worse, it is rumored that CHC can't refuse healthcare service per federal law. We'd like to know where's that federal law and what it specifically says on providing freebies. If one exists, did that law point to some agency in the federal government legally assigned to pay for free healthcare around the country and territories? It's costing taxpayers here over a million dollars a year. This too must be addressed realistically. You may get free breakfast but never free lunch!

The only alternative left on the table is for the corporation to use its assets to borrow the initial funds it needs to get its feet wet. MPLT would be a good venue for this purpose or CDA. The former must not fear loaning in that its coverage is the health and wellbeing of the entire CNMI. The sad fact is: This government is literally broke in every corner. Even if reduction-in-force is implemented cutting the bloated payroll by half, it won't collect sufficient funds to scaffold one of three essential departments of the CNMI. CHC is one of three essential departments!

No matter how you splice it, the financial debacle of CHC doesn't absolve the local government from meeting its obligation regardless that CHC is now on its own. It should have stayed the course for at least five years until the health corporation is steady and sturdy in its financial posture.

CERTIFIED
Used Cars
1 YEAR FREE SERVICE WITH USED CAR PURCHASE
DEALS OF THE WEEK

2005 Honda Civic EX
STOCK # 5H546930
$9,995.00

2007 Honda Fit Base
STOCK # 7S034395
$11,995.00

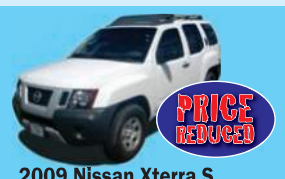
2009 Nissan Altima S
STOCK # 9C188438
$18,995.00

2006 Honda Civic DX
STOCK # 6L012086
$11,995.00*

PRICE REDUCED
2008 Mazda RX8
STOCK # 80214167
$16,995.00*

2007 Ford Fusion SEL
STOCK # 7R100604
$14,995.00*

2007 Honda Civic DX
STOCK # 7L043414
$11,995.00*


PRICE REDUCED
2009 Nissan Xterra S
STOCK # 9C509155
$19,995.00*

PRICE REDUCED
2008 Kia Sedona LX
STOCK # 86261071
$16,995.00*

2008 Ford Ranger Sport 4x4
STOCK # 8PA43917
$21,995.00*

2009 Honda Civic SI
STOCK # 9H704539
$21,995.00*

PRICE REDUCED
2008 Nissan Quest S
STOCK # 8N111101
$18,995.00*

Claudia T. Adriano
Sales Consultant
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Ext.123
Visit us on Facebook

2011 Nissan Altima S Coupe
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$27,995.00*

SOLD
2010 Honda Odyssey EX
STOCK # AB086532
$28,995.00*

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Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply • On approved credit • See dealer for details • While Supplies last.
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Parenting Seminar:
Expand your Toolbox

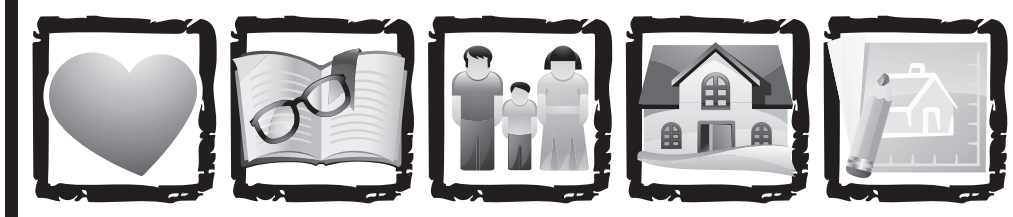
Presenters:
Andrea Stafford, L.C.S.W.; Calla Eichenberger, M.S.; Crystal Pierson, D.D.S.; Michael Stafford, D.D.S.; Thin Thin Conlon, M.Ed.

Where? Saipan SDA Center
(Quartermaster Road next to SDA Dental Clinic)

When? January 28th
Changing Generational Patterns at 10am
Blessing Our Children at 11am with church service
Relationships in Parenting at 3pm
Effective Discipline at 4pm
Involving Everyone in the Family at 5pm

Sunday, January 29th
Parenting and Finance at 3pm
Internet Safety and Our Children at 4pm
Education: Stimulating Development at Home at 5pm

Free child care available



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MEDICAID

From Page 11

Of course, there is another option. Make no decision about limiting the care and just let the bills run up, then later default on them. The fact that the Medicaid program has announced that it will be sharing its plan is reassurance to providers that the limitations will be clearly delineated and that "no plan" will not be "the plan."

It's tragic that we are in such a situation. It's tragic that healthcare—one of the primary measures of the level of development of a society—will have to be sacrificed. The irony is that here is a program where for every dollar we invest in the program, we get another dollar back in federal matching funds. We just don't have that dollar to invest. The Medicaid program is a good thing. It provides care for those who can't afford it. It helps people live better. And it is one area where the dollar spent by the government not only goes toward a noble purpose, and not only gets a free federal dollar into the CNMI, but also pushes those funds into the local economy. It seems like there must be other areas in the government budget where cuts could be made to shunt funds to the Medicaid program. Surely some other area must be less important than healthcare.

We may focus on getting costs down but the ultimate challenge is to get disease down. One of the major drivers of the cost of care—not just here but throughout the United States—is the lifestyles we lead. The vast majority of disease that we face—the vast majority of expense to the Medicaid program—are the result of choices we make. Tobacco use, alcohol use, and obesity, which are all the result of lifestyle choices, are what lead to diabetes, hypertension, cancer, stroke, and heart disease. These are the disease that are draining the CNMI's healthcare dollars.

Lifestyles are difficult to address. But one of them—the leading culprit—is not too difficult: tobacco use. It's well known that raising the cost of cigarettes results in decrease use. Once in a while, someone will bring up the idea of a "sin tax" on tobacco to reduce usage and generate revenue. I don't like the term "sin tax," because it seems like we're trying to tax someone's fun. I prefer to call it what it is: a "cost recovery fee."

The Centers for Disease Control places the cost to the economy of a pack of cigarettes at $10.47. Yes, that's per pack. For every pack smoked, $5.23 is spent on direct medical costs and $5.24 cents on costs related to loss of productivity.

What does this mean for us? Over the past two years, 2010 and 2011, the CNMI imported an average of 2.1 million packs of cigarettes per year. That's hard for me to believe. But the numbers actually add up.

If it's startling that we're smoking 2.1 million packs of cigarettes per year in the CNMI, then it's even more startling what we spend on those cigarettes in direct medical costs: 2.1 million packs x $5.23, or almost $11 million. We should not "tax" cigarettes. We should merely charge what they are costing us—our community and our government programs—in medical expenses. Add this $5.23 cost recovery fee to every pack of cigarettes, and we've funded the Medicaid program. Eleven million dollars more into the program, plus another $11 million from match by the federal government (if that's what's available), and suddenly, we have a program that is not underfunded at all. And if as a result, fewer people smoke, all the better. Over time, as the number of packs sold goes down (and the dollars coming into the program go down), so will the cost to the Medicaid program, and the need for these dollars.

I don't expect such a cost recovery fee to materialize. It seems too radical, too "harsh" for the smokers. But it shouldn't be viewed as anything personal. (After all, we use the same principle to recover the cost of power generation.) It's merely pointing out that the costs to the Medicaid program do come from somewhere, and we know that for each pack of cigarettes that someone on Medicaid smokes, the program incurs $5.23 in medical costs. The truth is that over 70 percent of smokers want to quit. A $5.23 cost recovery fee can help make quitting easier to bear. Quitting is hard, but no one suffers in the long term because they quit smoking, even if it was for economic reasons.

Is $5.23 a pack too much? Fine, but let's at least implement a partial cost recovery fee. Need more revenue? Put a bit of attention on another major cost to the healthcare system: alcohol. During 2010 and 2011, we imported 10 million cans of beer into the CNMI per year. That's 200 cans for every man, woman and child in the CNMI. Do you think this is costing our healthcare system money? You bet it is. Place a 25 cent cost recovery fee on every can of beer—not much of an increase, really—and we generate $2.5 million. With the federal match, this results in $5 million more into the Medicaid program. It's not about taxing some concocted sin. It's just about recovering the costs that are incurred by the healthcare system as a result of tobacco and alcohol use. No judgment. No blame. Just cost recovery.

Our population is getting poorer and sicker, driving more people into the Medicaid program and increasing the requirements of care. It's my hope that healthcare will improve in the CNMI, not worsen. I hope that because we are talking about people's lives, because we are talking about an industry—healthcare—that directly impacts our quality of life, and because we get a 100 percent dollar-for-dollar return on our investment in Medicaid, we can find ways to put more money into the Medicaid program, not less. With the harsh reality of the $5.3 million cap, the outcome is not a mystery, not for healthcare as an industry and not for the health of those covered by the program.

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Burglary on the rise in the CNMI

There have been a number of burglary incidents reported in recent months. Homeowners have reported losing a range of valuable assets including laptops and electronics. The more common reported cases of theft relates to copper wire. During an economic recession, the surge of burglary and other theft cases should come as no surprise.

Protecting your home

You do not want to gamble losing your most valued possessions from theft. You are not able to control outside parties from breaking into your home, but you can minimize your loss by having insurance. If you own a business, you may inquire about burglary insurance for your business establishment.

Review your existing insurance policy

If you currently have a homeowner's policy, the most basic step to take in finding out if you are covered from burglary is to review it. Since most insurance companies do not automatically include burglary insurance in a homeowner's policy, inquire if their burglary insurance covers both contents and property. Before pursuing such coverage, fully understand all policy conditions to ensure that you will have adequate protection.

If you do not already have burglary insurance, set an appointment with an insurance agent from a reputable company to fully understand the risks involved by not having one.

Including burglary insurance in your homeowners policy

You stand to save some money by including burglary insurance in your homeowner's policy instead of having it separate. If you do not own a homeowner's policy, you may inquire two proposals: a homeowner's policy with burglary coverage and one for burglary insurance alone. Take time to compare the difference between both options to see which will suit your needs. If you will be receiving proposals from more than one insurance company, compare the details of each policy before committing.

Deterrent from theft

Insurance is only a way to reduce financial losses in the event of a burglary. It is advisable to consider preventive methods to reduce the risks. Taking steps such as installing a security alarm system, building a fence wall, and having a watchdog when you are away from home can reduce the chances of theft. Such steps will not reduce your insurance premium, but it may enhance security and protection. ***(Pacifica Insurance)***

For more information on investing in burglary insurance, call Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. at 234-6267 or visit their office located at Joeten Center in Susupe. You may also visit www.pacificains.com or send an inquiry via email to piui@pacificains.com. Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. is a general agent for Century Insurance and Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance Limited.

Man allegedly beats up wife, admits planting pot

A man allegedly assaulted early Tuesday morning his common-law wife and admitted to police that he is cultivating three marijuana plants at his residence in Kagman III.

Steve Peter Mettao Jr., 42, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and illegal possession of controlled substance.

Mettao was set to appear Wednesday afternoon for a bail hearing. A $5,000 cash bail was initially imposed for his temporary release.

Police said that Mettao came home drunk on Monday at 11:22pm and pushed his common-law wife to the ground during an argument. He also allegedly grabbed a wooden stick and a backpack and swung them at her. The victim was not hit. She ran to a neighbor's house where she used a phone to call the police.

When a police officer responded to the house, he found the victim's cell phone broken in two and lying on the ground.

The officer also found three young marijuana plants in three small vases at the residence. Police said that Mettao admitted to planting the marijuana plants for his use. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy, happy 7th birthday to our double-trouble twins, Darrell Jr. and Darren Jay P. Concepcion! May God bless you two always and may you both have many, many more birthdays to come! We love you, Daddy, Mommy, Darie, and Jada.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Thank You, Saipan!
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Catholic Schools Week celebrates Catholic education in the CNMI

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Rev. Fr. Ryan P. Jimenez, apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, is flanked by students of Mount Carmel School after signing a proclamation designating the week of Jan. 29 to Feb. 5 as Catholic Schools Week in the CNMI at the Mount Carmel Cathedral Social Hall yesterday afternoon.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Apostolic administrator Ryan P. Jimenez proclaimed the week of Jan. 29 to Feb. 5 Catholic Schools Week in the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa and called on the community to help celebrate the importance of these institutions that contribute to the well-being of students in the CNMI and across the nation.

Student representatives in different grade levels at Mount Carmel School, the only Catholic school on island, and school president Margaret C. Dela Cruz witnessed Jimenez as he signed the proclamation at the Mount Carmel Cathedral Social Hall yesterday.

Besides Mount Carmel School, the Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja on Rota, and St. Joseph Catholic School on Tinian are also covered by the proclamation.

"Mount Carmel School, Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja, and St. Joseph Catholic School train and produce students strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities by providing an intellectually stimulating environment rich in spiritual, character and moral development," stated the proclamation read by student council president Dionne Camacho.

Camacho said she and her fellow students at Mount Carmel School are all excited and looking forward to the week-long celebration that helps strengthen their faith. "It helps us appreciate things around us more," she added.

The annual event also recognizes the sacrifices of parents who continue to choose to send their children to Catholic schools and acknowledge the commitment of teachers, administrators, and other personnel at these institutions.

"I urge the faithful of the diocese to participate in observance of this week in appropriate ways that will help instill an awareness and appreciation of the values that Catholic education instills in our children, which enhance the quality of life for all our people," said Jimenez.

Jimenez, in an interview, said he likes this year's theme, "Catholic Schools: Faith. Academics. Service." as it highlights the three pillars of Catholic education. According to him, Catholic students do not just learn about religion and theology or are encouraged to excel academically but also to develop their "spirituality and a personal relationship with God."

"What goes with that is really the formation of the person," Jimenez told *Saipan Tribune*. "I'm hoping that after leaving [Catholic schools], students are well equipped that they can do well on their own wherever you are and without this defined structure."

The Catholic Schools Week celebration will begin with a Mass on Sunday, followed by a series of activities the whole week.

"This is a once-a-year celebration that we share with the community at large, that's why we always start it with a regular Sunday Mass so the people can join us in prayer," he added.

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HAPPENING!
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Book Mobile this Saturday, January 28, 2012 at the DYS Tanapag Youth Center 12:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.
UPCOMING...
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Proclamation Signing - February 2nd, 2012, 2:30PM
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Information booth at Street Market on Thursdays.
Common Sense Parenting/Active Parenting Now/Active Parenting of Teens/Early Childhood S.T.E.P (To enroll, contact Mercy Usenuku at 664-2552/2555 on Saipan, Ben Atalig at 532-9393 on Rota, and Augusta Famaw at 433-2950 on Tinian)
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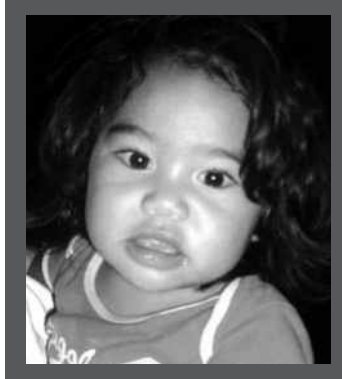
BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Belated happy first birthday to our *dudus*, Gretchen Celina Loubelle "leisowschem" Valenzuela Tebit, who celebrated her birthday on Jan. 26! May you have many more years to come. We love you! Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, Ommo, friends, and families, especially your family from Portland, Oregon (Nina Kate, Uncle Joey, Joshua, Naomi, and JC).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to the world's greatest husband and father, Joseph Tenorio Santos Jr.! May you have many more awesome birthdays to come! We love you very much! Greetings come from Thonx, Tricia, and Baby Joe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Auntie Bobby Babauta! May you have a wonderful birthday and many more birthdays to come! God bless, much love from Darie, Jada, and the twins.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Report: Taxpayers still owed $132.9B from bailout

WASHINGTON (AP)—A government watchdog says U.S. taxpayers are still owed $132.9 billion that companies haven't repaid from the financial bailout, and some of that will never be recovered.

The bailout launched at the height of the financial crisis in September 2008 will continue to exist for years, says a report issued Thursday by Christy Romero, the acting special inspector general for the $700 billion bailout. Some bailout programs, such as the effort to help homeowners avoid foreclosure by reducing mortgage payments, will last as late as 2017, costing the government an additional $51 billion or so.

The gyrating stock market has slowed the Treasury Department's efforts to sell off its stakes in 458 bailed-out companies, the report says. They include insurer American International Group Inc., General Motors Co. and Ally Financial Inc.

If Treasury plans to sell its stock in the three companies at or above the price where taxpayers would break even on their investment—$28.73 a share for AIG, $53.98 for GM—it may take a long time for the market to rebound to that level, the report says. AIG's shares closed Wednesday at $25.31, while GM ended at $24.92. Ally isn't publicly traded.

It will also be challenging for the government to get out of the 458 companies as the market remains volatile and banks struggle keep afloat in the tough economy, it says.

Congress authorized $700 billion for the bailout of financial companies and automakers, and $413.4 billion was paid out. So far the government has recovered about $318 billion. The bailout is called the Troubled Asset Relief Program, or TARP.

"TARP is not over," Romero said in a statement. She said her office will maintain its commitment to protect taxpayers for the duration of the program.

Treasury spokesman Matt Anderson said the department "has made substantial progress winding down TARP and has already recovered more than 77 percent of the funds disbursed for the program, through repayments and other income."

"We'll continue to balance the important goals of exiting our investments as soon as practicable and maximizing value for taxpayers," Anderson said.

The government has unwound its investments in four of the companies that received the most aid: Bank of America Corp., Citigroup Inc., Chrysler Group LLC and Chrysler Financial, the automaker's old lending arm.

On Wednesday, Treasury announced that it had sold the final batch of securities under its $368 million Small Business Administration loan program under TARP.

In Romero's quarterly report to Congress, she said her office has uncovered and prevented fraud related to TARP. Investigations by her office have resulted in criminal charges against 10 people and three convictions, the report notes.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Geithner: Obama won't ask me to stay in a 2nd term

WASHINGTON (AP)—Timothy Geithner said Wednesday that he doesn't expect to serve a second term as Treasury secretary. He said he doesn't think President Barack Obama would ask him to remain if Obama won re-election. "He's not going to ask me to stay on, I'm pretty confident," Geithner said in a Bloomberg Television interview. "I'm also confident he's going to have the privilege of having another Treasury secretary." Geithner is the only remaining top official on Obama's original economics team. He had considered leaving in August after the congressional battle over raising the debt limit was resolved.

IAEA checks Japan reactor pending safety approval

OHI, Japan (AP)—Experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency on Thursday began their first inspection of a Japanese nuclear power plant that has undergone official "stress tests"—a key step required to restart dozens of nuclear plants idled in the wake of the Fukushima crisis. A 10-member IAEA team was inspecting the No. 3 and No. 4 reactors at the Ohi nuclear power plant in Fukui, western Japan, where there is a string of reactors. "We look forward to seeing the types of specifications and types of improvements that Kansai Electric Power Co. has made at the Ohi nuclear plant," mission leader James Lyons said at the outset of the plant visit. "Because that would give us opportunity to see how nuclear utilities are responding to these instructions."

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for more information, please call 236-8840

Nation

Giffords says goodbye with a plea for civility

WASHINGTON (AP)—The applause rolled through the big chamber, growing ever louder as hundreds of Republicans and Democrats suddenly realized Rep. Gabrielle Giffords was back in the House. But this time she had come to say goodbye.

Fellow lawmakers gave her a fitting send-off: cheers, hugs, a cascade of tributes and plenty of tears in a rare moment of political unity.

A year since that fateful Saturday morning when Giffords was severely wounded during a shooting rampage in her home district, the Arizona congresswoman resigned on Wednesday with a plea for civility—and a hint that she'll be back on the national stage. For now, the 41-year-old said, her movements and speech still halting, she needs to focus on her recovery.

For all the kind words showered on her, Giffords reflected in her resignation letter about a level of respect that seems like an aberration these days in a bitterly divided Washington.

Giffords

In her five years in Congress, she said, "Always I fought for what I thought was right. But never did I question the character of those with whom I disagreed. Never did I let pass an opportunity to join hands with someone just because he or she held different ideals."

Upbeat and on a roll, Obama showing some swagger

CHANDLER, Ariz. (AP)—If President Barack Obama is showing some swagger, it shouldn't be a surprise.

His job approval ratings point to an uptick. The Navy SEAL unit that killed Osama bin Laden just pulled off a daring rescue that Obama authorized in Somalia. He's fresh off a big speech before Congress, and the Republicans who want his job are criticizing each other probably more than they are Obama.

As he hits the road for three days of travel to important political states, Obama is on a roll.

Feeling good, he even tried his hand at a bit of public crooning a few days ago, channeling the Rev. Al Green to a fundraising crowd at the Apollo Theater in New York and securing the highest of pop culture distinction: a ring tone.

It could be a fleeting moment for Obama. While the economy is improving with indicators trending positively, unemployment remains high at 8.5 percent and international debt crises and tensions could unravel the gains. A new Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll shows signs of increasing optimism that the economy will improve with 37 percent saying it will get better in the next year, the highest level in that poll in more than a year.

For now, Obama is not hiding his upbeat demeanor.

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NOTICE OF AUCTION
IN THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

he Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, hereinafter referred to as NMHC, as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all of the rights, title, and interests of the following described real property situated in **Garapan**, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

LOT NO. 003 D 16 (Formerly Block 1 Lot 16), as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 003 D 00 dated February 19, 1971, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry on the 1st Day of March, 1971, as Document No. 869, and containing an area of 1,022 square meters, more or less, together with the improvements and fixtures located thereon and therein and the appurtenances and all the rights, title, and interest of, in, and to the land lying in all streets, highways, and rights of ways abutting on or appurtenant to said premises.

Minimum Bid: The minimum bid for the property mentioned above in this notice shall be **$90,000.00.**

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on **Tuesday, February 7, 2012,** subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
2. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, auctioneer and seller shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
3. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Mr. Vicente T. Salas, Esq., P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-7455; Facsimile: 234-7256.
4. Deposit: Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.
5. Change of Terms: Auctioneer and NMHC reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
6. Inspection and No Warranty: Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact NMHC for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 4th day of January, 2012.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO, Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

Anthony Francis A. Benavente and Arlene Tina Lee Benavente (collectively "Trustor"), on or about April 11, 2006, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on April 12, 2006, under Document No. 06-895 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 011 G 1155, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 900 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON DLS CHECK NO. 011 G. 23, DATED DECEMBER 09, 1993, RECORDED AT THE COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S OFFICE AS FILE NO. 96-2566 ON OCTOBER 10, 1996 THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 3, 2011. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **February 14, 2012**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$68,619.36**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 13, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 13, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **$68,619.36** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the lease price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All lease payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer/lessee of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's/lessee's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Dated this 10th day of January, 2012.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

Jacob S. Mendiola and Tricia Delphine Santos (collectively "Trustor"), on or about December 12, 2006, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on December 28, 2006, under Document No. 06-3171 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 011 G 715, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 788 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEYS OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 011 G 14 DATED DECEMBER 01, 1993, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 93-4182, DATED DECEMBER 03, 1993.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 3, 2011. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **February 14, 2012**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$51,619.36**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 13, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 13, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **$51,619.36** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the lease price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All lease payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer/lessee of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's/lessee's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Dated this 10th day of January, 2012.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
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NOTICE OF AUCTION
IN THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, hereinafter referred to as NMHC, as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all of the rights, title, and interests of the following described real property situated in **Sadog Tasi,** Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

TRACT NUMBER 21899-2, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 767 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 2086/81, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 12450, ON THE 9TH DAY OF JULY, 1981, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference, together with the improvements and fixtures located thereon and therein and the appurtenances and all the rights, title, and interest of, in, and to the land lying in all streets, highways, and rights of ways abutting on or appurtenant to said premises.

Minimum Bid: The minimum bid for the property mentioned above in this notice shall be **$32,419.36.**

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 7, 2012, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
2. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, auctioneer and seller shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
3. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Mr. Vicente T. Salas, Esq., P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-7455; Facsimile: 234-7256.
4. Deposit: Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.
5. Change of Terms: Auctioneer and NMHC reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
6. Inspection and No Warranty: Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact NMHC for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 4th day of January, 2012.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO, Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF AUCTION
IN THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, hereinafter referred to as NMHC, as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all of the rights, title, and interests of the following described real property situated in **Dandan**, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

LOT NO. 010 K 05, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 892 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 010 K 01 DATED AUGUST 19, 1987, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 87-2911 DATED AUGUST 19, 1987, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE, together with the improvements and fixtures located thereon and therein and the appurtenances and all the rights, title, and interest of, in, and to the land lying in all streets, highways, and rights of ways abutting on or appurtenant to said premises.

Minimum Bid: The minimum bid for the property mentioned above in this notice shall be **$42,219.36.**

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on **Tuesday, February 7, 2012**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
2. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, auctioneer and seller shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
3. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Mr. Vicente T. Salas, Esq., P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-7455; Facsimile: 234-7256.
4. Deposit: Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.
5. Change of Terms: Auctioneer and NMHC reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
6. Inspection and No Warranty: Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact NMHC for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 4th day of January, 2012.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO, Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
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NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

Sabino R. Laniyo and Lourdes O. Laniyo C/O Rosa O. Laniyo (collectively "Trustor"), on or about June 21, 1982, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on June 21, 1982, under Document No. 14765 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT 001 F 25 (FORMERLY BLOCK 9 LOT 1), AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEYS OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 001 F 00 DATED FEBRUARY 17, 1971, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 829 SQUARE METERS.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 3, 2011. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **February 14, 2012**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$56,619.36**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 13, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 13, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **$56,619.36** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the lease price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All lease payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer/lessee of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's/lessee's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Dated this 10th day of January, 2012.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistani premier tones down criticism of army

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's prime minister toned down his criticism of the country's powerful generals Wednesday, a sign of lessening tension between the civilian government and the army that some predicted could topple the nation's leaders. The two sides have long been in conflict, but tempers flared in recent months over a secret memo allegedly sent by the government to Washington last year asking for help in stopping a supposed army coup after the U.S. operation to kill al-Qaida founder Osama bin Laden. The government has denied any connection to the letter. The political crisis has come as the government is facing an array of challenges, including a struggling economy, rampant militant violence and troubled relations with its most important ally, the United States.

SKorea staging artillery drills at border island

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea staged live-fire drills Thursday from a front-line island shelled by North Korea in 2010, the first such exercise since North Korean leader Kim Jong Il died last month. Marines at Yeonpyeong Island and nearby Baengnyeong Island fired artillery into waters near the disputed sea border during the two-hour-long drills, a South Korean Defense Ministry official said. The drills were routine exercises and there haven't been any suspicious activities by North Korea's military, the official said on condition of anonymity, citing department rules. South Korea last held artillery drills at the front-line islands on Dec. 12, five days before Kim Jong Il died of a heart attack, the official said. Similar drills at Yeonpyeong in November 2010 triggered a North Korean artillery bombardment that killed four South Koreans.

Rebel leader demands new Papua New Guinea govt

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (AP)—Rebel soldiers seized the military's headquarters Thursday and replaced Papua New Guinea's top defense official with their own leader, who gave Prime Minister Peter O'Neill a week to step aside for his ousted predecessor. The self-proclaimed new leader of the country's defense forces, retired Col. Yaura Sasa, insisted he was not mounting a coup. But he warned that the military will take unspecified action unless O'Neill stands down and former prime minister Michael Somare, is reinstated, as the national Supreme Court ordered last month. "Both Sir Michael Somare and O'Neill have seven days to implement the Supreme Court's orders to resolve the current political impasse or I will be forced to take actions to uphold the integrity of the Constitution," Sasa told reporters in Port Moresby.

Clashes between Tibetans, govt spread in China

BEIJING (AP)—Deadly clashes between ethnic Tibetans and Chinese security forces have spread to a second area in southwestern China, the government and an overseas activist group said Wednesday. The group Free Tibet said two Tibetans were killed and several more were wounded Tuesday when security forces opened fire on a crowd of protesters in Seda county in politically sensitive Ganzi prefecture in Sichuan province. It quoted local sources as saying the area was under a curfew. According to the Chinese government, a "mob" of people charged a police station in Seda and injured 14 officers, forcing police to open fire on them.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
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NOTICE OF AUCTION
IN THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, hereinafter referred to as NMHC, as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all of the rights, title, and interests of the following described real property situated in **Kagman II**, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

LOT NO. 011 G 308, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 797 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEY'S OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 011 G 06, DATED DECEMBER 9, 1993, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 93-4414, DATED DECEMBER 16, 1993, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE, together with the improvements and fixtures located thereon and therein and the appurtenances and all the rights, title, and interest of, in, and to the land lying in all streets, highways, and rights of ways abutting on or appurtenant to said premises.

Minimum Bid: The minimum bid for the property mentioned above in this notice shall be **$43,619.36.**

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on **Tuesday, February 7, 2012,** subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
2. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, auctioneer and seller shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
3. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Mr. Vicente T. Salas, Esq., P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-7455; Facsimile: 234-7256.
4. Deposit: Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.
5. Change of Terms: Auctioneer and NMHC reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
6. Inspection and No Warranty: Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact NMHC for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 4th day of January, 2012.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO, Corporate Director

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NOTICE OF AUCTION
IN THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, hereinafter referred to as NMHC, as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all of the rights, title, and interests of the following described real property situated in **Kagman II**, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 002 G 263, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 07 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1904, dated May 14, 1990, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference, together with the improvements and fixtures located thereon and therein and the appurtenances and all the rights, title, and interest of, in, and to the land lying in all streets, highways, and rights of ways abutting on or appurtenant to said premises.

Minimum Bid: The minimum bid for the property mentioned above in this notice shall be **$57,619.36.**

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on **Tuesday, February 7, 2012,** subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
2. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, auctioneer and seller shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
3. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Mr. Vicente T. Salas, Esq., P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-7455; Facsimile: 234-7256.
4. Deposit: Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.
5. Change of Terms: Auctioneer and NMHC reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
6. Inspection and No Warranty: Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact NMHC for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 4th day of January, 2012.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO, Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

Jesus SN. Cabrera and Florida DLG. Cabrera (collectively "Trustor"), on or about October 13, 1982, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 13, 1982, under Document No. 15700 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

TRACT NUMBER 21867-7, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 2,108 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 2025/78, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 7472, ON THE 26TH DAY OF JUNE, 1978.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 3, 2011. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **February 14, 2012**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$53,619.36**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 13, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 13, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **$81,619.36** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the lease price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All lease payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer/lessee of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's/lessee's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Dated this 10th day of January, 2012.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

Juana S. Crisostomo ("Trustor"), on or about October 12, 1994, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on November 1, 1994, under Document No. 94-2826 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 002 G 97, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 945 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 002 G 03 DATED MAY 31, 1989, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 90-1900, DATED MAY 14, 1990, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 3, 2011. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **February 14, 2012**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$41,619.36**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 13, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 13, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **$41,619.36** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the lease price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All lease payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer/lessee of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's/lessee's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Dated this 10th day of January, 2012.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

Julie DLG. Villagomez ("Trustor"), on or about November 8, 2002, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on November 21, 2002, under Document No. 02-2419 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 011 G 842 CONTAINING AN AREA OF 767 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEYS OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 011 G 17 DATED DECEMBER 03, 1993, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 93-4285, DATED DECEMBER 09, 1993, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 3, 2011. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **February 14, 2012**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$61,619.36**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 13, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 13, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **$61,619.36** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the lease price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All lease payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer/lessee of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's/lessee's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Dated this 10th day of January, 2012.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

World

A daring raid, and US, Danish hostages on way home

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—Held captive since last fall, an ailing American woman and a Danish man will soon be safely on their way home after a bold, dark-of-night rescue by U.S. Navy SEALs. The commandos slipped into a Somali encampment, shot and killed nine captors and whisked the hostages to freedom.

The raid's success was welcome news for the hostages and their families, for the military and for President Barack Obama, who was delivering his State of the Union speech and beginning a five-state tour as the mission wrapped up. He did not mention it in his address but dropped a hint upon arriving in the House chamber by telling Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, "Good job tonight."

AP

This combination photo made from undated images provided by the Danish Refugee Council shows Dane Poul Hagen Thisted, left, and American Jessica Buchanan.

It was the second splashy SEAL Team 6 success in less than a year, following last May's killing of Osama bin Laden in Pakistan.

The SEALs encountered some degree of resistance from the kidnappers at the encampment, two U.S. officials said, and there was a firefight during an approximately 1- to 1 1/2-hour operation.

One defense official said it was likely that the SEALs killed the kidnappers rather than capture them because they encountered armed resistance or the threat of resistance.

The Pentagon was mostly tight-lipped about details on Wednesday, citing a need to preserve the secrecy that can give SEALs and other special operations forces an edge against the terrorists, criminals and others they are ordered to kill or capture around the world under hazardous and often hostile conditions.

Special operations forces, trained for clandestine, small-team missions, have become a more prominent tool in the military's kit since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. The Obama administration is expected to announce on Thursday that it will invest even more heavily in that capability in coming years.

Hostages freed

Two foreign aid workers kidnapped in Somalia three months ago have been freed in a U.S. military raid.

Overnight raid

- About 2 a.m. local time, SEALs parachuted from plane into area near compound
- Shots fired as they approached compound; no U.S. casualties, reportedly nine captors killed
- Rescue team on the ground for about an hour
- Freed hostages, SEALs left by helicopter for Djibouti; taken to Camp Lemonnier

Source: ESRI, AP, BBC Graphic: Melina Yingling

Islamists, liberals square off in Egypt's Tahrir

CAIRO (AP)—Hundreds of thousands thronged major squares across Egypt on Wednesday, marking the first anniversary of the uprising that toppled Hosni Mubarak with rallies that laid bare the divisions that have replaced the unity of last year's revolt.

Cairo's Tahrir Square, the epicenter of the 18 days of protests against Mubarak, was transformed into the focal point of the rivalry between revolutionary activists intent on showing they can still mobilize the street, and the Muslim Brotherhood, who emerged as Egypt's dominant political force after a landslide victory in parliamentary elections.

The secular activists want continued protests to force the immediate ouster of the generals who took power after Mubarak's fall, saying they are just as dictatorial as the former president. The activists touted their powerful turnout as a sign they can pressure the Brotherhood, who they fear will accommodate the military in order to ensure their own political dominance.

"I have hope that these marches will be a message to the Brotherhood as much as the military council," said Sahar Abdel-Mohsen, who walked 3 1/2 miles (5 kilometers) in a giant march across Cairo to Tahrir.

"We all know even if the Brotherhood are strong, the military council is still stronger. ... What we all want is an end to military rule," she said.

Both sides were intent on bringing out as many supporters as possible to show their weight in a nation still reeling from the aftershocks of Mubarak's ouster.

The Islamists got off to a strong start, taking up positions in the morning and claiming the right to police the square, with Brotherhood volunteers checking the bags of those entering.

From a large stage with 10 loudspeakers, they blared religious songs and chants of "Allahu akbar," setting a tone of celebration for what they called the successes of the revolution, particularly the newly elected parliament.

But a dozen large marches organized by secular groups converged on Tahrir from various parts of the city, chanting "Down, down with military rule!" and filling boulevards as passers-by joined in along the way.

Merkel: Only a unified Europe can remain powerful

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP)—German Chancellor Angela Merkel insisted Wednesday that Europe will remain an economic power only if it deepens the integration that has caused it so many problems. Without that, she warned the global elite gathered in a Swiss ski resort, Europe will remain little more than a pleasant vacation destination

The tone of Merkel's keynote address was not dramatically different from her measured norm, but it was positive enough to feed an emerging feeling among European power brokers that Germany—and hence Europe—is finally becoming convinced that it needs to do whatever it takes to save the euro from collapse. "The message is that we are ready for more commitment. We are no longer making excuses," Merkel said. If Europe doesn't integrate further, she said, "we will remain an interesting holiday destination for a long time, but we won't be able to produce prosperity for the people in Europe anymore."

Merkel pledged to do what is necessary to protect the euro from collapse, and said greater European unity is needed to spark job creation and growth. However, she poured cold water on calls for Europe to ratchet up the financial firepower of its safety net for failing economies.

Germany is at the center of any rescue plan because it has the deepest pockets in Europe. And Europe is at the center of the global outlook because many fear a collapse of the euro could drag large parts of the world back into recession.

For months, Germany has argued that indebted countries much cut their budgets to the bone, and that their people must become poorer, in exchange for help in reducing their debt loads. But many say that will do little good if that very austerity causes growth to evaporate, making countries unable to pay back the debt that remains.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
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NOTICE OF AUCTION
IN THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, hereinafter referred to as NMHC, as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all of the rights, title, and interests of the following described real property situated in **Kagman III**, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 011 G 1091, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 20, the original of which was recorded 09 Dec 93 as Document No. 93-4288 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan., the description therein being incorporated herein by reference, together with the improvements and fixtures located thereon and therein and the appurtenances and all the rights, title, and interest of, in, and to the land lying in all streets, highways, and rights of ways abutting on or appurtenant to said premises.

Minimum Bid: The minimum bid for the property mentioned above in this notice shall be **$38,019.36.**

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on **Tuesday, February 7, 2012**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
2. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, auctioneer and seller shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
3. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Mr. Vicente T. Salas, Esq., P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-7455; Facsimile: 234-7256.
4. Deposit: Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.
5. Change of Terms: Auctioneer and NMHC reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
6. Inspection and No Warranty: Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact NMHC for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 4th day of January, 2012.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO, Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

Ignacio P. Omar and Maria C. Aldan (collectively "Trustor"), on or about March 29, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on March 30, 1984, under Document No. 84-484 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 005 I 527, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 748 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEY'S OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 2084/82, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 14232, DATED MAY 14, 1982, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 3, 2011. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **February 14, 2012**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$46,619.36**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 13, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 13, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **$46,619.36** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the lease price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All lease payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer/lessee of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's/lessee's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Dated this 10th day of January, 2012.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

Mary Ann Q. Lizama ("Trustor"), on or about November 16, 1999, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on November 23, 1999, under Document No. 99-2775 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 011 G 649, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 795 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEY'S OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 011 G 13 DATED DECEMBER 1, 1993, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 93-4181, DATED DECEMBER 3, 1993, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 3, 2011. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **February 14, 2012**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$58,619.36**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 13, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 13, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **$58,619.36** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the lease price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All lease payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer/lessee of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's/lessee's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Dated this 10th day of January, 2012.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Off the Wall

No joke: 3-inch nail removed from Ill. man's brain

OAK LAWN, Ill. (AP)—Dante Autullo was sure he'd merely cut himself with a nail gun while building a shed, and thought doctors were joking when they told him what an X-ray revealed: A 3 1/4-inch nail was lodged in the middle of his brain.

Autullo was recovering Friday after undergoing surgery at Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn, where doctors removed the nail that came within millimeters of the part of the brain controlling motor function.

"When they brought in the picture, I said to the doctor 'Is this a joke? Did you get that out of the doctors joke file?'" the 32-year-old recalled. "The doctor said 'No man, that's in your head.'"

As he was rushed by ambulance to another hospital for surgery, he posted a picture of the X-ray on Facebook.

Autullo, who lives in Orland Park, said he was building a shed Tuesday and using the nail gun above his head when he fired it. With nothing to indicate that a nail hadn't simply whizzed by his head, his long-time companion, Gail Glaenzer, cleaned the wound with peroxide.

"It really felt like I got punched on the side of the head," he said, adding that he continued working. "I thought it went past my ear."

While there are pain-sensitive nerves on a person's skull, there aren't any within the brain itself. That's why he would have felt the nail strike the skull, but he wouldn't have felt it penetrate the brain.

Neither he nor Glaenzer thought much about it, and Autullo went on with his day, even plowing a bit of snow. But the next day when he awoke from a nap, feeling nauseated, Glaenzer sensed something was wrong and suggested they go to the hospital.

AP

This photo provided by Christ Medical Center & Hope Children's Hospital in Oak Lawn,, Ill. on Friday, Jan. 20, 2012 shows an X-ray of a nail embedded in Dante Autullo's brain.

At first Autullo refused, but he relented after the two picked up their son at school Wednesday evening.

An X-ray was taken a couple hours later. And there, seeming to float in the middle of his head, was a nail.

Doctors told Autullo and Glaenzer that the nail came within millimeters from the part of the brain that controls motor function, and he was rushed by ambulance to the other hospital for more specialized care.

"He feels good. He moved all his limbs, he's talking normal, he remembers everything," Glaenzer said earlier Friday. "It's amazing, a miracle."

Neurosurgeon Leslie Schaffer acknowledged that Autullo's case was unusual, but not extremely rare. Schaffer said having a nail penetrate the skull is not like being shot in the head, noting that a bullet would break into multiple pieces.

"This (the nail) is thinner, with a small trajectory, and pointed at the end," he said. "The bone doesn't fracture much because the nail has a small tip."

Schaffer said the man's skull stopped the nail from going farther into his brain. He said he removed the nail by putting two holes in Autullo's skull, on either side of the nail, then pulled the nail out along with a piece of the skull.

The surgery took two hours, and the part of the skull that was removed for surgery was replaced with a titanium mesh, Hospital spokesman Mike Maggio said.

Glaenzer said Autullo hasn't really talked about how scared he was about what might have happened, but he did express a recognition about coming close to death.

"He was joking with me (after surgery), 'We need to get the Discovery Channel up here to tape this,'" she recalled him saying. "'I'm one of those medical miracles.'"

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

AZ inmate arrested for refusing to leave lockup

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP)—Most people can't wait to leave jail, but one northern Arizona inmate has been charged with trespassing after refusing to leave the Coconino County lockup. Coconino County Sheriff's Office spokesman Gerry Blair says 44-year-old Martin Batieni Kombate was arrested in Flagstaff last week for trespassing and was scheduled for release Monday on his own recognizance on the charge. But when detention officers from the sheriff's office showed up to escort him out, Kombate allegedly said he wasn't leaving and was staying because he couldn't find his wallet. Blair tells The Associated Press that Kombate was disorderly in a jail cell, would not leave, so the police were called and Kombate was arrested.

Alaska woman, 85, uses shovel to fend off moose

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—An 85-year-old Alaska woman used a grain shovel to fend off an agitated moose that was stomping her husband. George Murphy says his wife saved his life. The Anchorage Daily News says the 82-year-old pilot, who flew for three decades for the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, was hiking with his golden retrievers near the Willow airport Friday. He saw the moose and dove in the snow, but the moose started stomping him. His wife, Dorothea, who is 5 feet tall and weighs 97 pounds, grabbed a big shovel and hit the moose in the body and head. She ran for help, and Murphy was rushed by medical helicopter to an Anchorage hospital. He was in good condition Monday with a gash to his head.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
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PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
REPROGRAMMING OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT-RECOVERY FUNDS

Program Year	Program	Activity Name	Activity Status	Amount from program	Reprogram to
2009	CDBG-R	Planning and Administrative Costs	Ongoing	$97,690.00	
2009	CDBG-R	Sinapalo Children's Park Pathway	New		$60,000.00
2009	CDBG-R	Chalan Kanoa Kios Ku Public Facility	Ongoing		$6,550.60
2009	CDBG-R	ADA Improvements to the Marianas Medical Referral Center	New		$31,139.40
Total				**$97,690.00**	**$97,690.00**

The public is invited to provide written and oral comments on the proposed reprogramming. Written comments will be accepted no later than 4:30 p.m., February 3, 2012, at the main office in Garapan, Post Office Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950. Oral comments may be relayed to Jeannie P. Mafnas at telephone number (670) 234-7670, 6866, 7689, or 9447. Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations to submit comments may also contact Jeannie P. Mafnas at the telephone numbers above for assistance.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Rota Field Office: Tel. (670) 532-9410 Fax. (670) 532-9441
Tinian Field Office: Tel. (671) 433-9213 Fax. (670) 433-3690

Commonwealth Cancer Association
AWARENESS•EDUCATION•HOPE

COMMONWEALTH CANCER ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

All friends, volunteers, partners, and clients of the Commonwealth Cancer Association (CCA), and all members of the community, are invited to the general membership meeting on Tuesday, January 31st, 2012 at 6:00pm at CCA's Conference Room.

The agenda will include annual reports of the President and Treasurer; election of three CCA Board members; and opportunity for public comments. Nominations for board members will be accepted in advance and on the floor.

To submit a board nomination, or for more information, contact CCA at 682-0050 or email cca@ccamarianas.org.

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, **vs.** **MARIAN DLG. TUDELA,** Defendant. — **Civil Action No. 11-0088 CV** — **NOTICE OF AUCTION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 10th day of August, 2011, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendant, as prescribed in the judgment, the undersigned counsel will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder on the **5th day of April, 2012 at 10am,** at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

PARCEL I
Tract 21821-14, (part of Tract 21821-R2, part of original Tract 21821,AH 543), as more particularly descried on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2071/86 consisting of 736 squaremeters more or less, located in Sadog Tase, Saipan, the original of which recorded on March 26, 1986 as Document No. 86-0557 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office. Saipan.

PARCEL II
Tract 21821-15, (part of Tract 21821-R2, which was part of original Tract 21821, AH 543), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2071/86 consisting of 929 square meters more or less, the original of which was recorded on March 26, 1986 as document No. 86-0557 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan and recorded on August 5, 1998 as Document 98-2443 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

PARCEL III
Tract 21821-17, (part of Tract 21821-R3, part of original Tract 21821, AH 543), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2063/06, the original of which was recorded on July 21, 2006 as Document No. 06-1780 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

PARCEL IV
Tract 21821-2, (part of Tract 21821, AH 543), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 129/80, the original of which was recorded on July 16, 1980 as Document No. 10389 at the Office of Land Registry, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the Auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. Withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.
3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Bank of Guam.
4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 23rd day of January, 2012.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, F-0197
Auctioneer

Science & Technology

iPhone, iPad app rewards being a couch potato

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Want to earn stuff by watching TV? A free app for that debuted Wednesday.

When you tap the screen, Viggle's software for iPhones and iPads listens to what's on, recognizes what you're watching and gives you credit at roughly two points per minute. It even works for shows you've saved on a digital video recorder.

Rack up 7,500 points, and you'll be rewarded with a $5 gift card from retailers such as Burger King, Starbucks, Apple's iTunes, Best Buy and CVS, which you can redeem directly from your device.

With some back-of-the-envelope math, you can figure that it would take three weeks of watching TV every night for three hours to earn enough for a latte at Starbucks.

But the company plans to offer bonus points for checking into certain shows such as "American Idol" and 1,500 points for signing up. You can also get extra points for watching an ad on your device. The beta version awarded 100 points for watching a 15-second ad from Verizon Wireless.

"Viggle is the first loyalty program for TV," said Chris Stephenson, president of the company behind Viggle, Function (X) Inc. "We're basically allowing people to get rewards for doing something they're doing already and that they love to do."

The idea behind Viggle is that if people have an added reason to watch TV, the size of the audience will increase, allowing makers of shows to earn more money from advertisers. Advertisers such as Burger King, Pepsi and Gatorade have also agreed to pay to have point-hungry users watch their ads on a mobile device.

In exchange, users earn points, which Viggle converts into real value by buying gift cards at a slight discount from retailers.

If the company gets the point-count economy right, it can end up making more money from advertisers and networks than it gives away in rewards.

The app will also give the company valuable insight into who is watching what, as redeeming rewards requires putting in your age, gender, email address and ZIP code.

"It really shows what social TV is going to evolve into," said Michael Gartenberg, a technology analyst at research firm Gartner. "For folks behind the scenes, this is a great way of seeing who really is watching."

The company hopes that user activity will grow by word of mouth, especially by offering a 200-point bonus to people who successfully get their friends to try out the service.

The app made its debut in Apple Inc.'s app store on Wednesday. Versions for Android devices and computers are in the works.

The company has put in some safeguards. You must watch a show at least 10 minutes to earn bonus points. And you can't watch the same ad over and over again to earn more points; there's a one-ad-view-per-person rule.

This product image provided by Function Inc., shows the Viggle App for iPhone. When you tap the screen, Viggle's software for iPhones and iPads listens to what's on, recognizes what you're watching and gives you credit at roughly two points per minute.

AP

Function (X) is owned and led by entertainment entrepreneur Robert F.X. Sillerman, who once owned a big stake in "American Idol" owner CKx Inc. That gives the company deep and broad connections in the entertainment business.

Function (X) has brought in $100 million in investment capital. Its stock trades on the Pink Sheets, a platform that allows people to buy shares but doesn't require the company release its financial results. Function (X) currently has a market value of about $1 billion.

New library e-catalogs offer expanded selection

NEW YORK (AP)—Library users searching for e-books will soon get to look through a much bigger catalog and help decide what their local branch might carry.

OverDrive Inc., a major e-distributor for libraries, announced Wednesday the launch of a vastly expanded list for patrons, featuring not just e-books available for lending, but hundreds of thousands of those which include a collected of Edgar Allan Poe stories edited by Michael Connelly to foreign-language titles. Viewers can look at excerpts, purchase books from a retailer or request that their library add an e-book that wasn't being offered.

"We're allowing libraries to be better connected with their communities," OverDrive CEO Steve Potash said during a recent interview. "Right now, we have librarians who are trying to add books to the e-catalog but don't always know what to add. Now, by exposing a publisher's entire list, it becomes like crowdsourcing, where patrons can offer their suggestions."

Potash said he expects the program to begin within a couple of weeks, in a handful of library systems, including New York City, Boston and Cuyahoga County in Ohio.

In the Boston library system, Rick Warren's million-selling "The Purpose Driven Life" is currently unavailable as an e-book, but will appear in the new catalog. A patron might also ask about "In the Shadow of the Master," a collection of Poe stories and essays about him that Connelly edited; or Heather Graham's historical romance "Runaway."

Who controls your Facebook page if you die?

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: My daughter, who passed away on Aug. 10, 2011, was a very active Facebook member. My husband and I were leaving her page open and were managing her account with her password.

But my niece contacted Facebook without obtaining permission from us, and requested that my daughter's Facebook page be placed in memorial status. She was able to do this without knowing my daughter's Facebook password; Facebook just told her to submit a copy of my daughter's obituary.

Now our family and my daughter's friends can no longer tag themselves in my daughter's photos, and the only way they can see anything placed on her page is to go to the actual page itself to see the memories of my daughter that are posted there.

Facebook claims to be all about the security and privacy of their users. So why would they let just anyone without a password request to change another Facebook user's account?

I have contacted Facebook twice about this situation and all I received was an automated response that once a page has been placed in memorial status it cannot be changed back. What can we do?—Rick and Pam Murphy, Eagan, Minn.

ANSWER: I'm sorry for your loss.

When I tried to get an answer to your question, I also got no response from Facebook.

So I asked Jim Lamm, an estate planning and administration attorney at Minneapolis law firm Gray Plant Mooty, to explain how the law views Facebook ownership.

Lamm said the law recognizes Facebook's terms of service as a legal contract. Those terms don't allow the account of a deceased person to be transferred to a family member who has the password. Maintaining your daughter's account with her password would be considered "unauthorized access" under the law, he said.

"Facebook's policy about a user who dies gives you two options: Close the account, or leave it open as a memorial," he said.

A Facebook account in memorial status can't be altered and can't be accessed via password (see http://www.tinyurl.com/7vsysps.)

Should Facebook have allowed your niece to convert your daughter's Facebook page to memorial status? Lamm says yes, because Facebook's policy states that it doesn't need notification from a family member, and that an obituary is sufficient documentation.

But Lamm advocates changing state laws nationwide to require online companies to respond to requests such as yours.

"It's hard to get somebody to answer the phone or an email at these technology companies," Lamm said. "It would be nice to have an enforcement method."

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

In Celebration of Her New Life

†MARGARET SABLAN CABRERA BABAUTA

Born to life: December 15, 1943
Born to Eternal Life: January 22, 2012

In her new life, she now joins:
Husband: *†Fidel SN. Babauta*
Child: *†Verna Lynn Cabrera Babauta*
Parents: *†Jose Camacho & †Remedios Sablan Cabrera*
Parents In-Law: *†Jesus C. & Dolores SN. Babauta*
Brothers / Sister & In-Laws:
†Maria SN. Babauta
†Vicente SN. Babauta
†Roberto SN. Babauta
†Eugenio SN. Babauta
†Jose SN. Babauta
Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her
Children: *Glenda C. Babauta & Risan C. Suda (Bianka, Angelo, Cheyenne, Yosensa, Angelika, & Kauai'Mika)*
James E. Piteg (Shaena Leen Teregeyo)
Francisco "Charlie" Ada (Jonathon & Ann Marie)
Brothers & Sisters: *Rita C. & Antonio S. Guerrero & Family*
Edward S. Cabrera & Margarita P. Rios & Family
David C. & Angel Z. Cabrera & Family
Martin Cabrera & Family
Maria "Vickie" Mateo & Joseph P.S. Lujan & Family
Connie C. & Rudy T. Guerrero & Family
Sisters In-Laws: *Rita M. Babauta*
Trinidad M. Babauta
Maria Babauta
Esther R. Babauta
Uncle & Aunt: *Dr. Calistro C. Cabrera, Escolastica T. Cabrera*
Special Friend & Caretaker: *Sandra Delgado*

She is additionally survived by numerous uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces, cousins and friends.

Nightly mass of special intention is celebrated at San Vincente Church at 6:00 pm.

Last respects for Margaret will be held on Wednesday, February 1st, from 9:00 am til 12:30pm at the Santa Theresita Church, Mangilao, Guam. Mass for Christian Burial at 1:00 pm, Burial will follow at Our Lady of Peace Memorial Gardens in Windward Hills, Yona, Guam.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase
GINEN I FAMILIA

Life & Style

Lohan sued by pedestrian allegedly struck by star

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lindsay Lohan's bad luck with cars continues after a woman who claims she was struck by the actress' sports car sued over her injuries Wednesday. Nubia Del Carmen Preza claims she was struck by Lohan's Maserati while walking through a West Hollywood intersection in September 2010.

Preza's lawsuit states she has suffered "disabling and serious personal injuries, pain, suffering and anguish" and that she is seeking damages for all her medical expenses and lost time at work. A call to her attorney, Gregory Picco, seeking additional details was not immediately returned.

It is the second lawsuit filed against Lohan this month involving an automobile mishap. A paparazzo sued Lohan Jan. 10, claiming that he was struck in January 2010 by a vehicle in which Lohan was riding. Grigor Balyan claims he was trying to shoot pictures of the actress in Hollywowhen he was hit.

Preza's lawsuit states Lohan was driving when she was hit on the afternoon of Sept. 1, 2010, at an intersection just south of the Sunset Strip. At the time, Lohan lived near the intersection.

Lohan

Lohan's spokesman Steve Honig said neither Lohan nor her attorneys had been served with the lawsuit and could not comment on it.

The model and actress remains on probation for a 2007 drunken driving case filed after she was arrested twice that year on suspicion of driving while impaired.

One of the incidents sparked two civil lawsuits after Lohan chased a vehicle she thought was carrying her former assistant on Pacific Coast Highway. One of the cases has settled. The other, filed by three men who were in the SUV Lohan was driving, may go to trial in March.

Lohan's attorney in that case, Ed McPherson, has said the men had plenty of chances to get out of the vehicle and called the case "absurd."

The "Mean Girls" star has received two positive probation reports since a judge ordered her to perform weekly morgue cleanup duties in November. the actress may be off supervised probation by the end of March.

Sam Worthington a 'pussycat' in real life

"Man on a Ledge" star Sam Worthington should be pretty accustomed to working with green screen by now, after "Avatar" and "Terminator: Salvation," but the comforts of a visual-effects-ready backlot stage were not an option for the Aussie star this last time around.

Going out on a ledge isn't a figure of speech here: The actor literally spent several days filming on the ledge of a New York building, about 200 feet above ground. The actor and filmmakers chalked the decision up to savvy audiences who can tell when CGI has created an artificial background.

"I think sometimes an audience demands a certain authenticity. People actually knowing that I'm up there 200-odd feet in the air adds to the thrilling aspect of it," Worthington told the Ministry of Gossip at the film's L.A. premiere Monday at Grauman's Chinese Theatre.

It's Worthington's character who does most of the high-up dancing with death, but others involved with the movie got to give it a try, too, including Anthony Mackie and Ed Burns. Actor Titus Welliver, who plays an NYPD officer in the movie, wasn't feeling quite as adventurous.

"I was offered the opportunity, and I flatly refused because even when I would watch Sam when I was on the ground, when he was on the ledge, it would make my hands perspire. It made me so nervous," Welliver said.

Worthington started the film with a fear of heights but eventually found that "you get comfortable out there when your confidence builds."

Director Asger Leth and producer Lorenzo di Bonaventura both walked out onto the ledge.

"The director and I both said, 'If we're going to ask our actors to go there, we're going to out there, too,'" Di Bonaventura said.

The producer said aside from testing out the ledge for Worthington, the most daring thing he's done from far off the ground was climbing on Yosemite's Cathedral Rocks. Leth revealed he had a "scary" experience at about 14,000 feet in Argentina's mountains shooting a commercial for Guinness.

MCT
Elizabeth Banks and Sam Worthington star in "Man on a Ledge."

But Worthington had no tales of daring feats to regale reporters with.

"Trust me—in real life I'm a pussycat," he said. "I stay at home, make scrambled eggs, watch 'Law and Order,' pretty normal stuff. I only do crazy stuff in the film."

Summit Entertainment's "Man on a Ledge" hits theaters Friday. The thriller also stars Elizabeth Banks, Ed Harris and Jamie Bell. ***(Los Angeles Times)***

Sundance documentary examines rape in US military

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—The Department of Defense estimates that more than 19,000 military men and women were sexually assaulted by fellow troops in 2010 while serving in the United States armed forces. At least 20 percent of servicewomen and 1 percent of men—an estimated 500,000 troops—have experienced sexual trauma while serving.

These troubling statistics motivated documentarian Kirby Dick and producer Amy Ziering to make "The Invisible War," a film that examines the epidemic of rape within the military, how it affects victims and why so few cases are prosecuted. The film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, where it is a contender in the U.S. documentary competition.

The statistics "were just so astonishing that at first we didn't believe it," said Dick, adding that he was equally surprised that no film had been made on the subject.

Through interviews with rape survivors and military officials, "The Invisible War" suggests that it's not just the violence and harassment that traumatizes victims but the absence of impartial justice and personal retaliation they often experience after reporting the incident. A rape survivor's first step toward judicial recourse is to report the attack to her commander—even if he was the attacker—and it's his decision whether to investigate and prosecute, regardless of the evidence.

"If they investigate it, and the investigator comes back and says, `I've got a slam-dunk case. I can put this serial perpetrator behind bars,' the commander can, on his or her own, decide, `No, we're not going to send this case to court martial,'" Dick said.

A 2009 study shows that only 8 percent of military sex offenders are prosecuted.

"The Invisible War" introduces viewers to Kori Cioca, who left the Coast Guard after being beaten and raped by her supervisor. Five years later, she still suffers from post-traumatic stress and has yet to receive Veterans Administration approval for the surgery she needs to repair the injuries she suffered during the attack. The perpetrator, who continues to serve in the Coast Guard, hit her so hard that he permanently dislocated her jaw.

Viewers also meet Marine Corps 1st Lt. Ariana Klay, who served in Iraq before being gang-raped by a senior officer and his friend while stationed at the elite Marine Barracks in Washington, D.C. Klay's husband, also a Marine, cried as he described his concern and fear that his wife would commit suicide.

Other rape survivors shown in the film, including Cioca, said they also contemplated suicide.

Hannah Sewell, who comes from a military family, said she has trouble convincing herself that she is still a virgin after being raped while serving in the Navy. Her father, wearing his own military uniform, recounts the story through tears.

Dick and Ziering traveled the country to interview some 70 survivors of military rape.

"We weren't really ready for all the stories we heard," Ziering said. "Each one had a lot of similarities and all were equally horrific."

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The Grey
Friday 4:00 7:00 10:00
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Monday thru Thursday 4:00 7:00
Liam Neeson, Frank Grillo
Adventure • Rated R
Synopsis
Liam Neeson stars in producer/director Joe Carnahan's tense adventure thriller about a group of tough-as-nails oil rig workers who must fight for their lives in the Alaskan wilderness after their airplane crashes miles from civilization. With supplies running short and hungry wolves closing in, the shaken survivors face a fate worse than death if they don't act fast.

Man On A Ledge
Friday 4:30 7:30 9:50
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:50
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Monday thru Thursday 4:30 7:30
Sam Worthington, Elizabeth Banks
Drama, Thriller • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
An NYPD hostage negotiator (Elizabeth Banks) attempts to talk cop-turned-fugitive Nick Cassidy (Sam Worthington) down from a high ledge, but she learns that he may have a hidden motive for threatening to take his own life.

One For The Money
Friday 4:20 7:20 9:35
Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:35
Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Monday thru Thursday 4:20 7:20
Katherine Heigl, Jason O'Mara
Crime, Comedy, Thriller • Rated PG 13

Underworld: Awakening
Friday 4:25 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Monday thru Thursday 4:25 7:25
Kate Beckinsale, Stephen Rea
Horror • Rated R

Red Tails
Friday 4:05 7:05 9:45
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Monday thru Thursday 4:05 7:05
Cuba Gooding, Jr., Terrence Howard
War • Rated PG 13

Haywire
Friday 4:10 7:10 9:30
Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:30
Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10
Monday thru Thursday 4:10 7:10
Gina Carano, Michael Douglas
Thriller, Spy film • Rated R

Joyful Noise
Friday 4:15 7:15
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Sunday 1:15 4:15
Monday thru Thursday 4:15
Queen Latifah, Dolly Parton
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol
Friday 9:55
Saturday 9:55
Sunday 7:15
Monday thru Thursday 7:15
Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner
Spy film, Action • Rated PG 13

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'30 Rock' star back at work after hospitalization

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Comedian and "30 Rock" cast member Tracy Morgan is back at work in New York after a brief hospitalization in Utah, his publicist said Wednesday.

"He appreciates everyone's support and concern," Lewis Kay said in an email to The Associated Press.

The actor was hospitalized Sunday while attending the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, where the elevation is 7,000 feet.

Kay said Morgan suffered from exhaustion and altitude. Morgan also has diabetes.

Morgan posted a comment on Twitter from the hospital Monday, saying the high altitude "shook up this kid from Brooklyn." "Superman ran into a little kryptonite," he quipped.

The hospital found no drugs or alcohol in Morgan's system, Kay said.

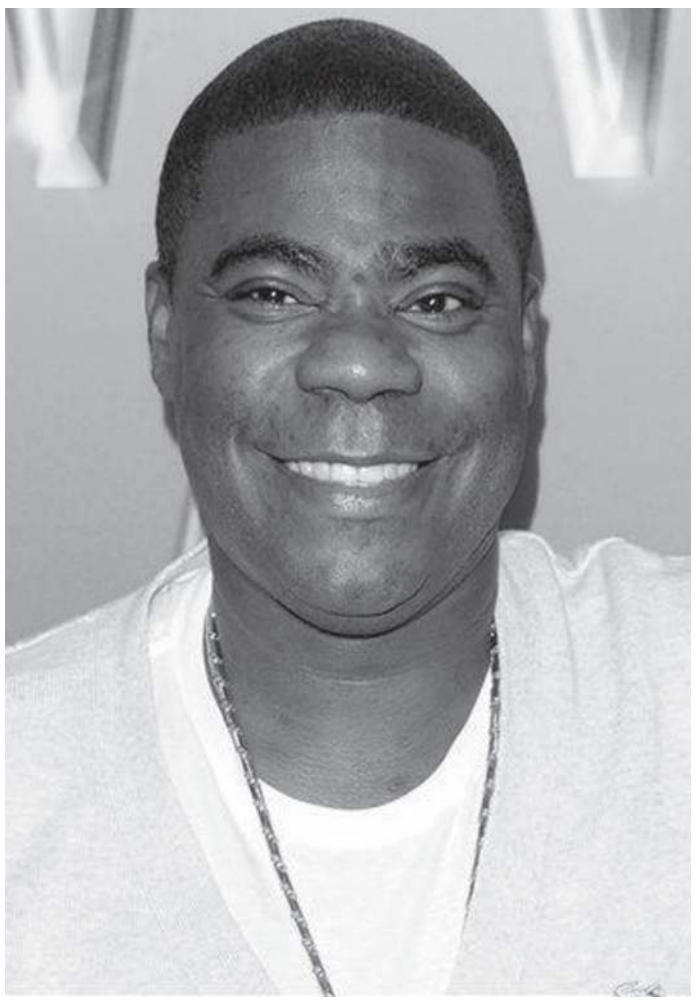
Recordings of 911 calls made on the night he collapsed, which were obtained by the AP, indicate Morgan passed out at the Blue Iguana restaurant.

"I don't know if he's been drinking," said one caller, who added that Morgan had vomited. He also said the actor was unconscious and had been loaded into the backseat of a taxi, ready to be rushed to a hospital. However, the dispatcher told the caller to remain there and wait for an ambulance.

Other callers told the dispatcher Morgan had a high fever and was breathing slowly.

"It's actually a celebrity. He has a high fever," said one caller.

An ambulance arrived a short time later and took Morgan to a nearby hospital. He was released a day later.



AP

In this Oct. 24, 2011 file photo, actor Tracy Morgan attends the premiere of "Tower Heist" in New York.

Star Jones making guest appearance on 'The View'

Jones

NEW YORK (AP)—Apparently enough water has flowed under the bridge for Barbara Walters and Star Jones to reunite for a day.

"The View" announced on Wednesday that Jones will appear on the daytime talk show on Feb. 22 to promote an awareness campaign about heart disease among women.

Walters and Jones had a falling out in 2006 when Jones, one of the five original co-hosts of the daytime chat show, exited "The View." ABC decided not to renew her contract and Jones took Walters by surprise by announcing on June 27 that she would be leaving the show.

That exit came more quickly than expected. Walters wouldn't allow her back the next day.

Walters later said that Jones had compelled her co-hosts to lie for her by not revealing that Jones had undergone gastric bypass surgery while on "The View." Jones took her own shots, criticizing Walters for writing an autobiography that revealed details of an affair.

The women later had something serious in common. Both underwent open heart surgery to repair faulty heart valves within two months of each other in 2010.

Jones is coming back to the show to discuss her involvement in the American Heart Association's "Go Red for Women" public information campaign. Women are asked to wear red on Feb. 3 to support heart patients.

Man convicted in Travolta car theft ordered to pay

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A man who stole John Travolta's vintage 1970 Mercedes-Benz convertible has been sentenced to 16 months in jail and ordered to pay the actor $50,000 in restitution, according to court records obtained Wednesday.

Travolta had parked the convertible on a residential street in Santa Monica for about 10 minutes in September when it was stolen.

Travolta

The Oscar-nominated actor had the keys with him while he went to a nearby Jaguar dealership.

Santa Monica police Sgt. Richard Lewis said Travolta's car had been dismantled by the time it was recovered. Among the pieces found were seats, the speedometer, hubcaps and other parts.

D L Rayford Jr., 52, pleaded no contest on Jan. 5 to grand theft auto after he and Michael T. Green were arrested last month.

Green has pleaded not guilty to two counts of grand theft auto. Robert Conley, his public defender, said he could not comment.

Lewis said authorities waited until Wednesday to announce the arrests because their investigation into Rayford and Green had been ongoing. Police were able to clear eight stolen car cases after their arrests, Lewis said.

An email message seeking comment from Travolta's publicist Samantha Mast was not immediately returned.

Rayford has a previous conviction for robbery. Green, 58, has prior convictions for robbery and grand theft auto. He is due in court on Feb. 8.

Oscars voting to go electronic

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Potential Oscar winners will now be a click away from winning a trophy.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced Wednesday that it has partnered with a company to develop an electronic voting system for next year's 85th annual Academy Awards.

The motion picture academy says it entered into an agreement with Everyone Counts Inc. to exclusively to work with longtime accountantsPricewaterhouseCoopers to create the new system.

Oscar voting in the past has been compiled through paper ballots sent through the mail.

Ric Robertson, the Academy's chief operating officer, said in a statement that it's the first step the Academy is taking "toward developing a secure and convenient electronic voting system."

The 84th annual Academy Awards are set for Feb. 26.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Dick Tufeld, voice of 'Lost in Space" robot, dies

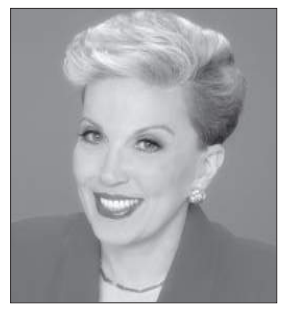
LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dick Tufeld, a radio and TV announcer best known as the voice of the robot in the 1960s television show "Lost in Space," has died. He was 85. Mt. Sinai Memorial Parks says Tufeld died Sunday at home in the Studio City area of Los Angeles. Tufeld's career included announcing for the 1950s radio show "Space Patrol." He also worked on hundreds of commercials, sports and news programs and TV shows ranging from "Zorro" to "Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea." However, Tufeld is perhaps best known for voicing the "Lost in Space" robot, whose warnings of "Danger, Will Robinson!" became a catchphrase. An obituary released by his family says services will be held Friday at Mt. Sinai Hollywood Hills.

Actor Armie Hammer nabbed in Texas for marijuana

SIERRA BLANCA, Texas (AP)—Authorities say Hollywood actor Armie Hammer was arrested at a border patrol checkpoint in West Texas after a drug sniffing dog discovered marijuana in his car. The 25-year-old, who starred with Leonardo DiCaprio in "J. Edgar," spent about a day in jail before paying a $1,000 bond. Arrest records show he had 0.02 ounces of marijuana, three medicinal marijuana cookies and one brownie when arrested Nov. 20 in Sierra Blanca, a few miles from the Mexican border. El Paso's district attorney declined to prosecute because a felony requires more than 4 ounces of actual marijuana. The county attorney could pursue lesser charges since the case is going back to the local sheriff, but Hammer's lawyer Kent Schaffer says no charges have been presented. Hammer also starred in "The Social Network."

High school letters bring memories best forgotten

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: A few days ago I received a large white envelope from a friend I had been close to in high school. "Jen" returned every letter, card and note I had written to her throughout our four years of school. She thanked me for being a good friend and thought I might like to have them.

I can't tell you how upsetting it was to read how awful I was as a teenager. I was promiscuous, used foul language and made references to experimenting with drugs. It brought back so many terrible memories that I had blocked.

I have been married for 23 years and have three children who would be crushed if they discovered my past. I don't know what to do. The letters are full of history and my innermost feelings. Some passages are humorous and the thoughts of a silly teenager talking to a dear friend. I can't bring myself to throw them away and have hidden them in my hope chest. What should I do with them?

SECRETS OF THE PAST

DEAR SECRETS: The problem with the written word is that it often outlives the writer. If you don't want your children or grandchildren to remember you through your true confessions, censor them NOW. Unless you're "hoping" your family will discover the letters after you're gone, you should destroy them. However, if they contain memories you would like to keep, copy the passages down and place those in your hope chest.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I was sexually assaulted two years ago by a boy at a party I attended while away at school. I reported the incident to local and campus police, but there wasn't enough evidence to have him arrested. It took me a while to realize I needed help to deal with it. I'm looking for a counselor and hope to volunteer at a rape crisis center after I have gotten the help I need.

I have learned that the man who attacked me is getting married. I don't know his fiancee, but I'm horrified at the thought of this unsuspecting woman marrying a predator. I know if I do nothing, anything that happens to her or their children is on my hands for staying silent. I don't even know if she'd believe me, but I feel I have to try. Some advice, please, Abby.

ANXIOUS IN ALABAMA

DEAR ANXIOUS: You are not alone. According the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly one in five women report having been raped or suffered an attempted rape in their lifetime. If there is a rape crisis center near you, contact it now and let the counselors there counsel and guide you in your healing. If you approach your predator's fiancee at this point, you probably won't be believed. Not being believed is like being raped twice. So get some professional help before you attempt to reach out to her.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am very fair-skinned and turn red easily, especially when I'm nervous or embarrassed. It has made me afraid to speak in public or to go to large events where there may be a lot of people. Do you have any advice on how I can get over this?

BLUSHING EVEN NOW IN PHOENIX

DEAR BLUSHING: What you have described may be a symptom of social phobia, the most common form of an anxiety disorder. There are effective treatments for it, and you can find out more about them by discussing your problem with your physician and/or a psychologist. You might also benefit from attending a phobia support group. The psychologist can help you locate one or more of them in your community.

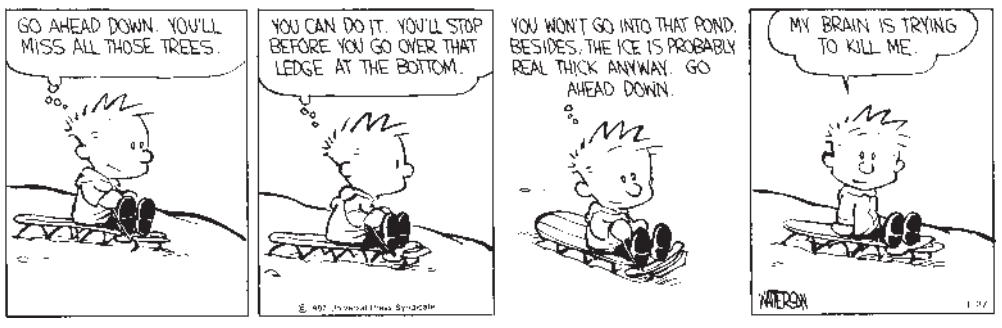
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

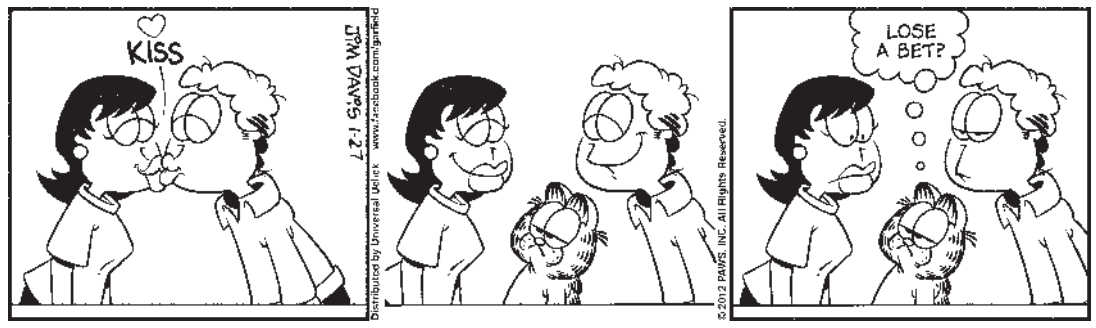
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


GO AHEAD DOWN. YOU'LL MISS ALL THOSE TREES.
YOU CAN DO IT. YOU'LL STOP BEFORE YOU GO OVER THAT LEDGE AT THE BOTTOM.
YOU WON'T GO INTO THAT POND. BESIDES, THE ICE IS PROBABLY REAL THICK ANYWAY. GO AHEAD DOWN.
MY BRAIN IS TRYING TO KILL ME.
WATTERSON

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



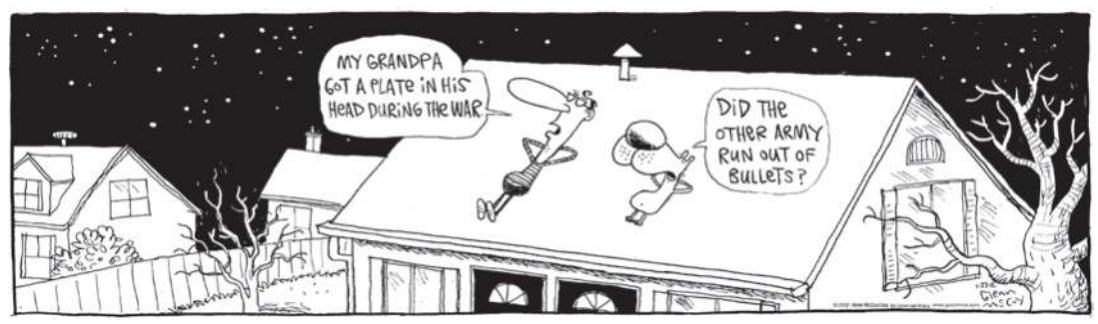
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

OKAY, ADAM. YOU DO INDEED HAVE A KIDNEY STONE.
OH GOSH. PLEASE MAKE IT GO AWAY.
WELL, THE SAFEST WAY TO GET RID OF IT IS TO LET IT PASS NATURALLY.
FORGET SAFE. WHAT'S THE MOST PAIN-FREE?
IF I MOVE ON TO THE NEXT PATIENT.
1/27

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

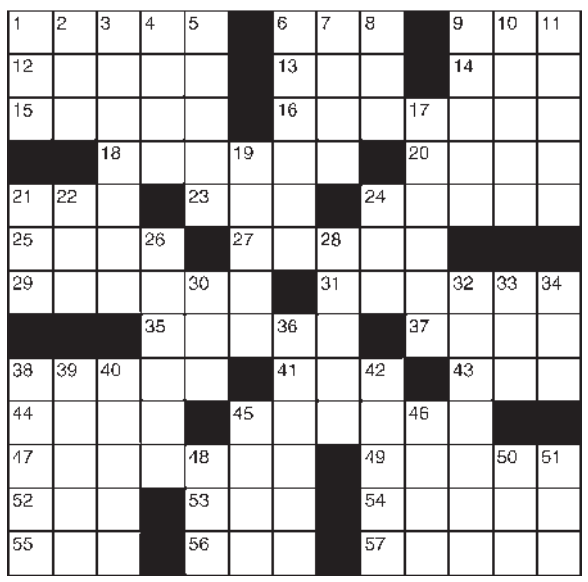
ACROSS
1 Breakfast strips
6 Lawyers' org.
9 Under the weather
12 Island greeting
13 Deteriorate
14 — Zedong
15 Impersonator
16 Order
18 Transforms through CGI
20 Curved molding
21 Winter bug
23 Prior to
24 Garb
25 Camera feature
27 Trip around the world?
29 Relinquishes
31 Does a double-take, maybe
35 Gladiators' place
37 Aerobatic maneuver
38 Like crazy
41 Kreskin's claim
43 Kiwi's extinct cousin
44 Hodge-podge
45 Rift
47 Remark
49 Selected
52 Coloration
53 Actress Carrere
54 W.H. —
55 Commercials
56 Spring mo.
57 Trusty horse

DOWN
1 Emeril's cry
2 "The Greatest"
3 Home for many hippies
4 Buck-eyes' home
5 Mother-of-pearl
6 Robin Hood, for one
7 Greets the villain
8 $ dispenser
9 Mirror's offering
10 Bowling milieu
11 Sources of wealth
17 Human
19 Ordinary writing
21 Aviate
22 Wahine's gift
24 Expire
26 Zigzag path
28 Impudent
30 Parched
32 Low chest of drawers
33 Also
34 Hot tub
36 Ambrosia accompaniment
38 Coffee-chocolate blend
39 For all to hear
40 March of —
42 Typesetting measures
45 Quick cut
46 Close
48 Greek vowel
50 Witness
51 Conclusion

Solution time: 25 mins.

O	W	E	D	■	S	A	P	■	I	S	L	E
N	A	M	E	■	O	A	R	■	G	O	O	F
E	N	I	C	■	N	E	O	■	U	N	I	T
S	P	R	A	N	G	■	P	L	A	I	N	S
■	■	■	M	O	B	■	■	I	N	N	■	■
G	A	S	P	■	I	N	S	T	A	L	L	S
F	G	O	■	■	R	F	Q	■	■	A	O	K
M	E	N	H	A	D	E	N	■	S	W	A	Y
■	■	O	O	H	■	■	D	Y	E	■	■	■
C	O	C	N	A	C	■	H	E	A	H	I	H
O	G	R	E	■	A	P	E	■	S	E	R	A
S	L	A	Y	■	L	E	I	■	O	N	I	T
I	E	M	S	■	L	A	M	■	N	O	M	E

Yesterday's answer 1-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Patton Oswalt, 43; Alan Cumming, 47; Bridget Fonda, 48; Cris Collinsworth, 53.

Happy Birthday: Look for the unusual, and follow a path that suits your needs. It's important to differentiate what you have to offer from those you compete against. Your uniqueness will help you flourish in the end. Passion will bring you both personal and professional success, making it vital to believe in your ability, strength and courage. Your numbers are 6, 14, 24, 27, 36, 38, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Keep things in perspective. It will be easy to get all worked up over nothing. The cost of saying something you regret will be greater than anticipated. Work hard, say little and you will get through any unfortunate misunderstanding gracefully. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Keep moving and accomplishing personally and professionally. It's vital that you don't stop or waste time. Your accomplishments now will buy you time later. An interesting encounter with someone vibrant will get you thinking about options and new possibilities. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Pick your battles. There is no point ruining your reputation over something you cannot win. Stick to what you do best and focus on completing the tasks you are responsible for so you can move on without concern. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Avoid anyone who appears to be erratic or unpredictable. A close relationship should be put at the top of your list. Make plans that will bring you closer to the one you love and set the stage for a better future. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You've got all the right moves and can turn anything you touch to gold, but don't let it go to your head. Too much of anything will backfire, stopping your progress midway. Be smart, concise and well informed. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Look outside your normal range mentally, physically and emotionally, and you will get the answers you seek. A chance to make a financial change is apparent, but caution must be taken and restrictions put in place. Self-control is key. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): A change of plans will lead to a change of heart. Don't be afraid to branch out on your own. Changes at home will be prelude to bigger and better things to come. Take on a challenge and you will surpass expectations. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Put your best foot forward and engage in social events that will help you get ahead personally and professionally. Your charm and passionate approach will attract plenty of attention, as well as a unique partnership. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Avoid opposition by staying out of confrontational situations. It's in your best interest to do your own thing. Anger and upset will lead to carelessness that can result in injury or lowered vitality. Protect your health and well-being. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Reconnect with people who have helped you in the past. Offering something that will repay the favor will result in an ongoing relationship that will benefit everyone concerned in the future. Opportunity will develop through the company you keep. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Give-and-take will be necessary, but don't allow anyone to use emotional blackmail on you. Think and do what's best for you, not what others want you to. Put greater emphasis on your goals and you will avoid meddlers, users and abusers. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Put pressure on whoever you need to come through for you in order to take care of a responsibility you are obliged to complete. Your ability to make things happen by pulling together the right people will demonstrate your leadership. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are aggressive and strive for perfection and quality.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		1		7		8		
			6		4			
		3				2		
	6						3	
2		8		5		7		9
	5						2	
		9				5		
			1		9			
		2		3		1		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	7	3	5	4	1	2	6	9
2	9	4	7	8	6	1	5	3
1	5	6	2	9	3	4	8	7
3	8	2	4	1	7	6	9	5
7	6	5	9	2	8	3	1	4
9	4	1	3	6	5	7	2	8
5	2	8	1	3	4	9	7	6
6	3	9	8	7	2	5	4	1
4	1	7	6	5	9	8	3	2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/26

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BRIDGE ANYONE? Solution: 10 letters

M	T	S	R	E	Y	A	L	P	L	O	S	E	J	E
R	I	M	C	M	S	E	N	S	E	T	E	S	A	L
Y	U	S	A	N	A	S	M	A	R	T	D	G	C	A
S	R	B	S	T	O	K	E	A	H	U	A	N	K	E
G	H	T	B	T	C	I	E	N	M	N	P	I	S	D
H	N	U	N	E	N	H	T	M	I	V	S	K	N	O
A	S	I	F	U	R	I	Y	C	U	F	C	O	I	O
N	Q	P	T	F	O	E	O	L	U	I	M	S	C	W
D	C	E	M	A	L	C	N	P	R	A	C	I	O	K
D	A	I	Ⓔ	U	L	E	G	T	I	O	A	G	N	C
M	O	Ⓤ	S	C	R	U	A	D	R	C	L	N	T	A
A	Ⓛ	U	L	A	P	T	M	E	B	A	L	A	R	L
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Yesterday's Answer: Haywire

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

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• 3-Liner	$15	$27
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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- **BENITO S. TAMAN and DOMITILIA T. TAISACAN,** Defendants.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0418** **SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on December 21, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: That certain tract or parcel of real property situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, designated as Lot No. 002 G 286, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 07 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1904, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, February 3, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 5th day of January, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Administratrix Rita R. Fitial

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN TE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: RAYMOND S. FITIAL, Decedent.	**Civil Action No. 11-0171**

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FINAL DECREE OF DISTRIBUTION

Date: February 16, 2012
Time: 1:30pm
Judge: Honorable Robert C. Naraja

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE RAYMOND S. FITIAL:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **Rita R. Fitial,** Administratrix of the Estate of Raymond S. Fitial, has filed with the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands a Petition for Decree of Final Distribution. The attorney for Administratrix is **Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.**

The hearing on the Petition for Final Decree of Distribution has been set for the 16th day of February, 2012 at 1:30pm at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guma Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Dated this 17th day of January, 2012.

Clerk of Court
/s/Deputy Clerk of Court

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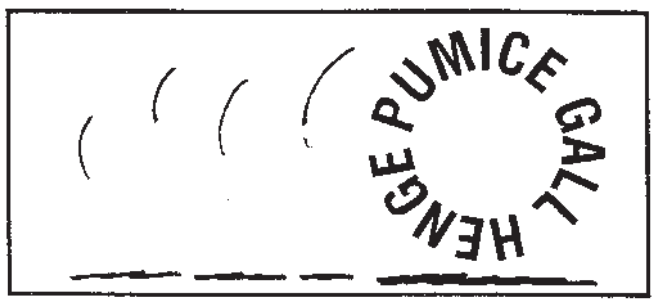

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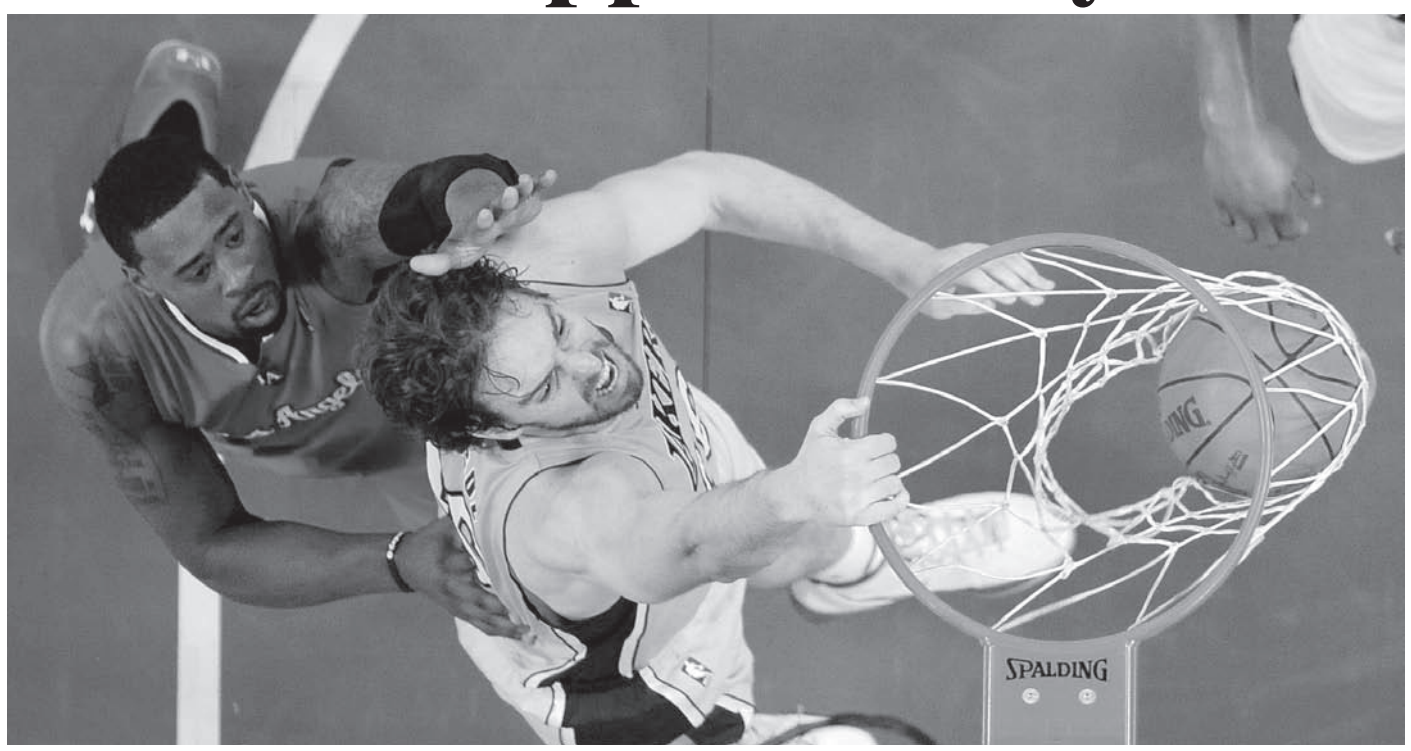

AP
Los Angeles Lakers forward Pau Gasol, right, of Spain, dunks as Los Angeles Clippers center DeAndre Jordan defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2012, in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kobe Bryant scored 12 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter, Pau Gasol had 23 points and 10 rebounds, and the Los Angeles Lakers rallied from a fourth-quarter deficit for a 96-91 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on Wednesday night in another testy edition of their cross-hallway rivalry.

Andrew Bynum scored 19 points to help the Lakers snapped their three-game skid with their first win of the season over their fellow Staples Center tenants. The Clippers beat the Lakers twice in the preseason and again earlier this month, staking an early claim to L.A. superiority with their revamped lineup.

The Lakers aren't ready to cede the city just yet—and they were willing to fight for it. The clubs combined for six technical fouls, and the Lakers' Josh McRoberts was ejected.

Blake Griffin had 26 points and nine rebounds, and Caron Butler and Mo Williams added 16 points apiece for the Clippers, who led for nearly every possession of the first 3 1/2 quarters. Chris Paul had four points and 12 assists for the Clippers in his return from a five-game absence because of a strained left hamstring.

After trailing for all but the opening basket, Bryant put the Lakers in front with six points during an 11-4 run capped by Metta World Peace's 3-pointer with 3:30 to play. The Lakers nursed the lead into the final minute, when Bynum made a lyaup and blocked DeAndre Jordan's shot in the paint on consecutive possessions, essentially sealing the Lakers' ninth straight "home" victory in the building shared by these clubs.

The Lakers have won 10 of their last 11 home games since Christmas, and the Clippers still haven't beaten the Lakers twice in a row since the 2006-07 season. The Lakers still failed to score 100 points for the 12th straight game, matching their longest low-scoring stretch since early 2004.

Pacers 95, Bulls 90

In Chicago, the Indiana Pacers became the first visiting team to win in Chicago this season, beating the Bulls to close the gap between the NBA Central Division's two top teams to 2-1/2 games.

Danny Granger scored 22 points and Roy Hibbert added 20 points, including a key dunk after a mad scramble that gave the Pacers a four-point lead with 13 seconds to go.

Indiana, who lost to the Bulls in a heated opening round of last season's playoffs, had trailed by 10 at halftime.

The Bulls, missing injured starting forward Luol Deng with a wrist injury, are now 8-1 at home. Derrick Rose led Chicago with 24 points but had only two in the final quarter.

Spurs 105, Hawks 83

In San Antonio, Matt Bonner and DeJuan Blair each scored 17 points as San Antonio handed surging Atlanta its first lopsided loss of the season.

Tiago Splitter added 16 points for the Spurs, who relished a convincing win over the Southeast Division leaders after barely squeaking past woeful New Orleans on Monday.

Jeff Teague led Atlanta with 22 points. Kirk Hinrich made his season debut after missing 18 games recovering from shoulder surgery.

Timberwolves 105, Mavericks 90

In Dallas, Kevin Love had 31 points and 10 rebounds to celebrate signing a rich new contract, leading Minnesota to a road win over defending champion Dallas.

The end of the Mavericks' seven-game home winning streak, and their franchise-record streak of holding 15 consecutive opponents under 100 points, came after they finally received their championship rings during a pregame ceremony.

Dallas led by 14 points late in the second quarter but the Timberwolves finished the first half with eight consecutive points in the final minute, then had a 13-4 run in the first 5 minutes of the third quarter for the lead.

Ricky Rubio had 17 points and 12 assists for Minnesota.

Jason Terry led Dallas with 17 points.

Nuggets 122, Kings 93

In Sacramento, Danilo Gallinari celebrated a contract extension by scoring 21 of his 23 points in the first half to set up Denver's easy win over Sacramento.

Nene had 16 points for the Nuggets, who led by 31 points early in the third quarter before easing up. They posted both their fifth straight victory and fifth in a row on the road. It was the first time they have won five in a row on the road since joining the NBA in 1976-77.

Rookie Jimmer Fredette scored 19 points for the Kings.

Net 97, 76ers 90

In Philadelphia, Deron Williams scored 34 points, including a go-ahead 3-pointer with 26.8 seconds left in overtime, to give New Jersey a tight win over Philadelphia.

Kris Humphries had 13 points and a season-high 19 rebounds for New Jersey.

Lou Williams led Philadelphia with 17 points.

Thunder 101, Hornets 91

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored 25 points to lead Oklahoma City to its 10th win in 11 games, downing New Orleans.

Durant was 9 of 13 from the field and had a team-high seven rebounds.

The Thunder improved to 15-3, the best record in the Western Conference, despite an off night from guard Russell Westbrook and 21 turnovers.

Jarrett Jack scored 20 points to lead New Orleans.

Heat 101, Pistons 98

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, LeBron James scored 32 points, including the game's last six from the free throw line, to lead Miami past Detroit.

The Heat trailed 98-95 but James made two free throws to cut the deficit to one with 1:19 left. After Damien Wilkins fumbled the ball out of bounds for the Pistons, James drove straight at Austin Daye, drawing another foul and putting Miami up 99-98.

James made two more free throws with 9.4 seconds remaining after Detroit's Greg Monroe missed inside.

Chris Bosh hit his first seven shots and finished with 27 points for Miami _ which was without Dwyane Wade, who sat out because of a right ankle injury.

Daye scored a career-high 28 points for the Pistons.

Bucks 105, Rockets 99

In Houston, Stephen Jackson and Brandon Jennings each scored 20 points as Milwaukee snapped an 11-game losing streak in Houston.

The win came at a cost, with Andrew Bogut leaving in the first quarter with an ankle injury, not to return.

However Milwaukee hit a season-high 14 shots from 3-point range to win in Houston for the first time this millenium.

Kevin Martin scored 29 points for the Rockets, who had a seven-game winning streak snapped.

Warriors 101, Trail Blazers 93

In Oakland, Stephen Curry scored a season-high 32 points and added seven assists and six rebounds as Golden State extended its recent home dominance against Portland.

David Lee had 26 points and five rebounds to help give the Warriors their 12th win in the past 13 meetings at home against Portland. The Warriors also snapped a three-game losing streak and beat a Western Conference opponent for the first time this season, at the seventh attempt.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 18 points and seven rebounds for the Trail Blazers.

Raptors 111, Jazz 106, 2OT

In Salt Lake City, Jose Calderon hit a 3-pointer to tie it at the end of regulation and Toronto went on to beat Utah in double overtime despite having trailed by 18 points in the first quarter.

Andrea Bargnani and reserve Linas Kleiza each scored 25 points for the Raptors, who won in Salt Lake City for the first time since 2004. Kleiza hit four of Toronto's 10 3-pointers.

Paul Millsap led Utah with a season-high 31 points, including a 3-pointer to force the second overtime.

Cavaliers 91, Knicks 81

In Cleveland, Anderson Varejao had 16 rebounds, a powerful late dunk and outhustled New York's big men as the Cavaliers ended a four-game losing streak with win over struggling New York.

Antawn Jamison added 15 points for the Cavs, who won their ninth straight at home over New York. The Knicks haven't won in Cleveland since 2006.

Amare Stoudemire had 19 points and 14 rebounds for the sloppy Knicks, who had 23 turnovers —six in the fourth quarter. New York has lost seven of its past eight.

Wizards 92, Bobcats 75

In Washington, the hosts celebrated the first game with Randy Wittman as coach by beating fellow struggler Charlotte.

Nick Young scored 20 points, and Andray Blatche had 17 points and 10 rebounds for the Wizards, who only appointed Wittman to succeed the fired Flip Saunders on Tuesday, and who went into the game without the benefit of a practice session.

Matt Carroll scored 17 points for Charlotte.

Timberwolves, Love reach 4-year extension

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Kevin Love is staying with the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Love and the team agreed to a four-year contract extension worth between $60 million and $62 million, a deal that includes an early termination option for Love in the final year.

The All-Star power forward and the team faced an 11 p.m. Wednesday deadline to sign an extension. If not, Love would have become a restricted free agent this summer.

Love will make the maximum amount of salary for the four years, but he did not get the five-year deal for which he was hoping. The new collective bargaining agreement allows for franchises to give one player on the roster a five-year deal that would have been worth roughly $80 million for Love this time around.

Love said Timberwolves owner Glen Taylor and president of basketball operations David Kahn did not want to offer the five-year deal to the All-Star power forward.

"Did I want the five years? Of course," Love said on a conference call from Dallas, where the Timberwolves were scheduled to play the Mavericks on Wednesday night. "It was something I felt strongly about, but at the end of the day, a four-year deal is still great."

Oklahoma City gave Russell Westbrook a five-year deal and Chicago signed MVP Derrick Rose to a five-year deal as well.

"They're in totally different positions," Love said, pointing out that the Thunder and Bulls are both considered championship contenders while the Wolves haven't been to the playoffs since 2004.

As the clock ticked down, Love said the situation was weighing on him and he wondered if the deal would get done.

"I was willing to make a commitment for five years. They thought otherwise," he said. "I'm glad this is out of the way. It was drawn out until 8 a.m., 9 a.m. this morning."

Love ranks fifth in the league with 24.9 points per game, second with 13.9 rebounds and first with 39.4 minutes played. He has emerged as the face of the franchise and is a key building block for the team and new coach Rick Adelman.

The new collective bargaining agreement allows the Timberwolves to offer Love more money than any other team.

Love is in his fourth season in the NBA. The son of a former NBA player and nephew of a Beach Boys icon, Love was a high school star in Oregon, an All-American in his only season at UCLA and last year led the NBA in rebounding. He became the first player in more than two decades to have 30 rebounds and 30 points in the same game and became an All-Star in just his third season as a pro.

The four-year deal gives the Timberwolves some flexibility going forward and keeps that maximum offer available for point guard Ricky Rubio, No. 2 overall pick Derrick Williams or another player down the road.

"It's good to have our centerpiece," Williams said. "We need a guy like him to put up 25 and 10 every night. ... I had a feeling he would stay with the fan base he's built."

Azarenka into women's final at Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Victoria Azarenka reached her first Grand Slam final and staked a claim for the No. 1 ranking when she beat defending champion Kim Clijsters 6-4, 1-6, 6-3 in the Australian Open semifinals on Thursday.

The third-seeded Azarenka recovered her composure twice in periods when a resurgent Clijsters seemed to have the upper hand, breaking the veteran Belgian's serve three times in the third set to secure victory in only her second appearance in a major semifinal.

The 22-year-old Belarusian will play either Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova or 2008 Australian Open champion Maria Sharapova in the Saturday night final. Azarenka, Kvitova and Sharapova can all finish the tournament with the No. 1 ranking.

After a strong start, Azarenka's serve deserted her in the second set and Clijsters dictated play with her solid groundstrokes and some amazing defense.

But after getting the momentum back, it was Clijsters who blinked first in the third set, dropping serve in the second game and again in the fourth. She got two of those service games back, including one when she rallied from 40-0 down to win a game to get the score back to 4-3.

But Azarenka rallied immediately again, breaking serve. She got triple match point trying to serve out the match and, after a double-fault on her first, she clinched it on a Clijsters' error.

Azarenka threw her racket on the court and sank to her knees, bent over with her hands covering her face. Clijsters came around the net to congratulate her.

AP

Victoria Azarenka of Belarus celebrates after defeating Kim Clijsters of Belgium during their semifinal at the Australian Open tennis championship, in Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 26, 2012.

"I felt like my hand is about 200 kilograms and my body is about 1,000 and everything is shaking, but that feeling when you finally win is such a relief. My God I cannot believe it's over. I just want to cry," Azarenka said as she choked back tears, then buried her face in the towel.

"It was just trying to stay in the moment. Kim really took over the second set and I felt there was nothing I could do. I just tried to regroup."

Clijsters is a popular player in Australia, where she's widely known as "Aussie Kim." The four-time major winner had most of the backing from the crowd on the national holiday in what is likely to be her last Australian Open.

Azarenka held her nerve despite the crowd.

"I guess before you all thought I was a mental case. I was just young and emotional," she said in a courtside interview. "I'm really glad the way I fight, that's the most thing I'm really proud of. I fight for every ball."

The Sharapova-Kvitova semifinal was next match on Rod Laver Arena.

On Wednesday night, top-ranked Novak Djokovic held off No. 5 David Ferrer in a second-set tiebreaker and then raced through the third set for a 6-4, 7-6 (4), 6-1 win, setting up a rematch of last year's final against fourth-ranked Andy Murray and ensuring the 'Big 4' reached the semifinals for the third time in the last four majors.

With Nos. 2-4 already in the semis, Djokovic looked to be in trouble in the second set when he clutched at his left hamstring and had trouble breathing.

"No, I don't have any physical issues," Djokovic later said, playing down any health concerns. "I feel very fit and I feel mentally, as well, very fresh.

"It's just today I found it very difficult after a long time to breathe because I felt the whole day my nose was closed a little bit. I just wasn't able to get enough oxygen."

Murray beat Kei Nishikori 6-3, 6-3, 6-1 earlier Wednesday, while second-ranked Rafael Nadal and No. 3 Roger Federer were already preparing for their semifinal showdown on Thursday, their 10th clash at a major but their first meeting at that stage of a Grand Slam since 2005.

Doubts about Djokovic's temperament surfaced after he won his first major at the 2008 Australian Open and didn't reach another final for 11 Grand Slam tournaments. In his first title defense in 2009, he struggled with breathing problems and the heat and had to retire from his quarterfinal match against Andy Roddick.

Trying again to defend the Australian title, and again in the quarterfinals, Djokovic was leading by a set and a break when he dropped serve against Ferrer.

At break point, he scrambled to hit a lob on his backhand and didn't even wait for it to land out before turning to face the back of the court, grabbing at the back of his left leg. He leaned over and rested his head on the top of his racket. Ferrer was back in contention.

At times Djokovic looked exhausted and sore at times in the second set, but he pulled through.

"In these conditions, at this stage of the tournament, when you're playing somebody like David ... your physical strength and endurance comes into question," Djokovic calmly explained of his on-court demeanor. "Actually I'm not concerned about that at all."

That may not be how Murray's new coach, Ivan Lendl, sees it. Lendl has been working with Murray this month, trying to help him break his Grand Slam title drought—he has lost three major finals, including the last two in Australia.

He was doing some scouting Wednesday night at Rod Laver Arena, sitting about 15 rows behind the Djokovic group, surrounded by people waving Serbian flags. He couldn't have missed the sideways glances Djokovic sneaked at his support crew. Murray and Djokovic know each other well, but haven't been on the same side of a Grand Slam draw for a while.

Murray said he's growing in confidence because he's "just more used to being in this position."

Colts hire Ravens' Pagano as new head coach

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The next chapter in the Peyton Manning saga could take a decidedly defensive turn.

Indianapolis hired Baltimore Ravens defensive coordinator Chuck Pagano as its new coach Wednesday and will introduce him at a news conference Thursday afternoon.

It's the third time Jim Irsay has turned to a defensive-minded coach since replacing his father as team owner in 1997, first hiring Jim Mora and then Tony Dungy as Mora's replacement in 2002.

"I like it," Pro Bowl defensive end Robert Mathis wrote on Twitter.

The Colts are hoping the change produces better results after Indy went 2-14 last season, its worst record in two decades. But there are questions about how this decision will impact the future of Manning and his teammates.

The 51-year-old Pagano had been a career assistant until Wednesday. He had coached previously in the NFL at Oakland and Cleveland and also worked extensively in college with stops at Miami and North Carolina.

He's the fourth Ravens defensive coordinator to get a head coaching job in less than a decade. The others were Bengals coach Marvin Lewis, Jets coach Rex Ryan and former 49ers coach Mike Nolan.

Those who have worked closely with Pagano believe he's ready for the promotion.

"Chuck has a leadership quality about him. He's humble but he also knows when to take the reins and take charge," Ravens linebacker Paul Kruger said. "He doesn't try to dominate you in every meeting. He's just a coach that knows exactly how players are and what direction they need."

But Pagano is taking over a team in transition.

Irsay's dizzying array of moves this month has essentially cleaned house.

It began with the firings of the father-son front office tandem of Bill and Chris Polian on Jan. 2, the day after the season. The next week, Irsay hired 39-year-old Ryan Grigson as the new general manager.

Last week, coach Jim Caldwell was fired after his third season because he won only two games while Manning sat out with a neck injury and now, eight days later, Indy has his replacement -- with more changes to come.

Quarterbacks coach Ron Turner, receivers coach Frank Reich and offensive line coach Pete Metzelaars all have been let go, too. That leaves offensive coordinator Clyde Christensen, running backs coach David Walker and tight ends coach Ricky Thomas among those with fates yet to be determined. Back in 2002, when Mora was fired, Irsay hired Dungy but kept most of the offensive staff intact.

The offseason moves are taking a toll on the team's morale. In an interview published Tuesday by The Indianapolis Star, Manning called the complex not a "very good environment" for healing.

Irsay must pay Manning a $28 million bonus by March 8 or the four-time league MVP, who turns 36 in March, could become an unrestricted free agent after having three neck surgeries in 19 months. The Colts have the No. 1 pick in this year's draft, which most expect to be used on Stanford quarterback Andrew Luck.

Either way, Pagano should have a solid foundation on offense.

And with his defensive pedigree, the Colts are hoping for a big jump from a unit that ranked near the bottom of the league.

"What makes him good? He relates to the players a whole lot," Baltimore defensive end Cory Redding said. "He's almost like a player in a D-coordinator's position. The guy has so much fun with us. He treats you like more than a player. It's like we're his sons. He wants us to do well. He keeps it fresh. He knows everybody's strengths and puts them in position to make plays."

Pagano spent three years as the Ravens' secondary coach before replacing Bryan Mattison as Baltimore's defensive coordinator a year ago. The Ravens ranked third in total defense and allowed the third-fewest points in the NFL last season.

The Wyoming graduate and former strong safety for the Cowboys began his coaching career in 1984 as a graduate assistant at Southern California and spent time at in the college ranks at Boise State, UNLV, East Carolina and Miami before joining Cleveland to coach the secondary. In 2005-06, he was defensive backs job at Oakland, then served as defensive coordinator at North Carolina before joining the Ravens when John Harbaugh became head coach four years ago.

"Chuck is unorthodox," Ravens linebacker Terrell Suggs said. "He's like The Joker. You never really expect what he's going to do, and everything has a motive."

Jorge Posada: 17 seasons, 5 titles and 1 team

NEW YORK (AP)—Jorge Posada was watching television when he saw speculation on which teams were interested in signing him as a free agent.

"They put my face on different uniforms," he said. "And it didn't look good."

He began a Yankee and ended as a Yankee, spending his entire career in pinstripes.

Flanked by his wife and children, with five World Series trophies sitting on a table to his right, the five-time All-Star catcher retired at age 40 on Tuesday after 17 major league seasons. He finished with a .273 career batting average, 275 home runs and 1,065 RBIs.

At a crowded Yankee Stadium news conference, Derek Jeter, Mariano Rivera and CC Sabathia were among those who watched Posada fight off tears as he sat on a dais with wife, Laura, 12-year-old son Jorge Jr. and 9-year-old daughter Paulina. It was clear the rest of the family also wanted to be Yankees lifers.

"This is so cool," Paulina said to her dad as she picked up the cardboard in front of her seat with her name and the famous interlocking "NY" logo. "I'm going to keep this."

Posada joins Bernie Williams and Andy Pettitte in retirement, leaving only the 37-year-old Jeter and 42-year-old Rivera from the core group that led the Yankees to four World Series titles in five years from 1996-2000.

"Mariano said this is it. He says one more year. But Derek says he's got like three more to go. So we'll see," Posada said, adding he didn't expect the great closer to quit after next season.

"I don't think about it right now. But the time will come," Rivera said. "Definitely the time will come when I'll have to just admit it and hang (up) the glove and the uniform and move on. We all go through that."

Jeter, the Yankees' captain and leader, expects to outlast Rivera.

"Mo's still got to go first. He's a lot older than me," he said before adding with a laugh: "Mo's going to be here longer than all of us."

Shrieking at success and fuming over failure, Posada often was nuclear fission at the center of the Yankees and what became known as the Core Four. While Jeter and Rivera rarely reveal their feelings, and Pettitte does only on occasion, Posada has been a passionate open window into the Yankees, praising, strutting, venting and battling.

"We feel the same way; I'm just better at hiding it. But we feel the same way inside, and I think that's why we've gotten along so well throughout the years," said Jeter, who first played alongside Posada in the minors in 1992.

He has called him "Sado" for years, since late Yankee Stadium public address announcer Bob Sheppard mispronounced Posada's name when he pinch ran for Wade Boggs in Game 2 of the 1995 AL playoffs.

In the same room where Pettitte announced his retirement 11 1/2 months ago, select season ticket holders were invited to sit in the audience.

Posada talked with great fervor about the team that drafted him in the 24th round in 1991.

"Every time I stepped through the Yankee Stadium doors," he began, "I quoted Joe DiMaggio and said, `I want to thank the good Lord for making me a Yankee.'"

"I could never wear another uniform," he said. "I will forever be a Yankee."

Posada's voice broke up, especially when he spoke in Spanish about his parents. He thanked his teammates, rubbing his chin three times and wiping his eyes. He called Rivera "my brother" and praised Jeter "who helped me stay focused and positive."

"Hopefully you won't miss me that much," he said.

Posada

Diana Munson, wife of the late Yankees catcher Thurman Munson, spoke admiringly of Posada, who kept a quote from her husband in his locker: "Batting fourth and being in the lineup is important, but I think the stuff I do behind the plate is more important." One day at Yankee Stadium, Posada sat next to her and told her about his admiration for the former captain, who died in a plane crash when Posada was 7. She wound up following Posada in the box scores.

"He in fact is the one who brought me back to baseball again. After losing Thurman, I kind of lost my heart for baseball," she said. "He plays the game I think the way Thurman played it: a lot of grittiness, lot of toughness. ... I think he and Thurman would have been best buds. He definitely has the `it' factor. I can't describe it. I don't know what it is. But I knew immediately upon meeting him that he had it, and I think the Yankee fans also have realized that, and I imagine they're as sad today as we all are."

She was followed by a video of fan tributes and by Lisa and Brett Niederer from Bristol, Wis. She talked about the Jorge Posada Foundation and its emotional support and financial assistance to families affected by craniosynostosis, a disease that causes bones in the skull to fuse prematurely.

Jorge Jr. has had nine operations, and Lisa Niederer was watching on television when the father and son went onto the field together during the introductions for the 2002 All-Star game. Brett, then 2 1/2, was diagnosed with the disease around the start of that year, and they talked about the Posada family's assistance.

"I knew we were not alone anymore," said Lisa, who has become a mentor for the foundation.

When the focus returned to baseball, Posada recalled how he started his professional career as a shortstop, was moved to second base and was asked by the Yankees to move to catcher after the 1991 season.

"I felt like it was the worst decision ever," he said, remembering all the passed balls he allowed while catching top draft pick Brien Taylor. "It was not a pretty sight."

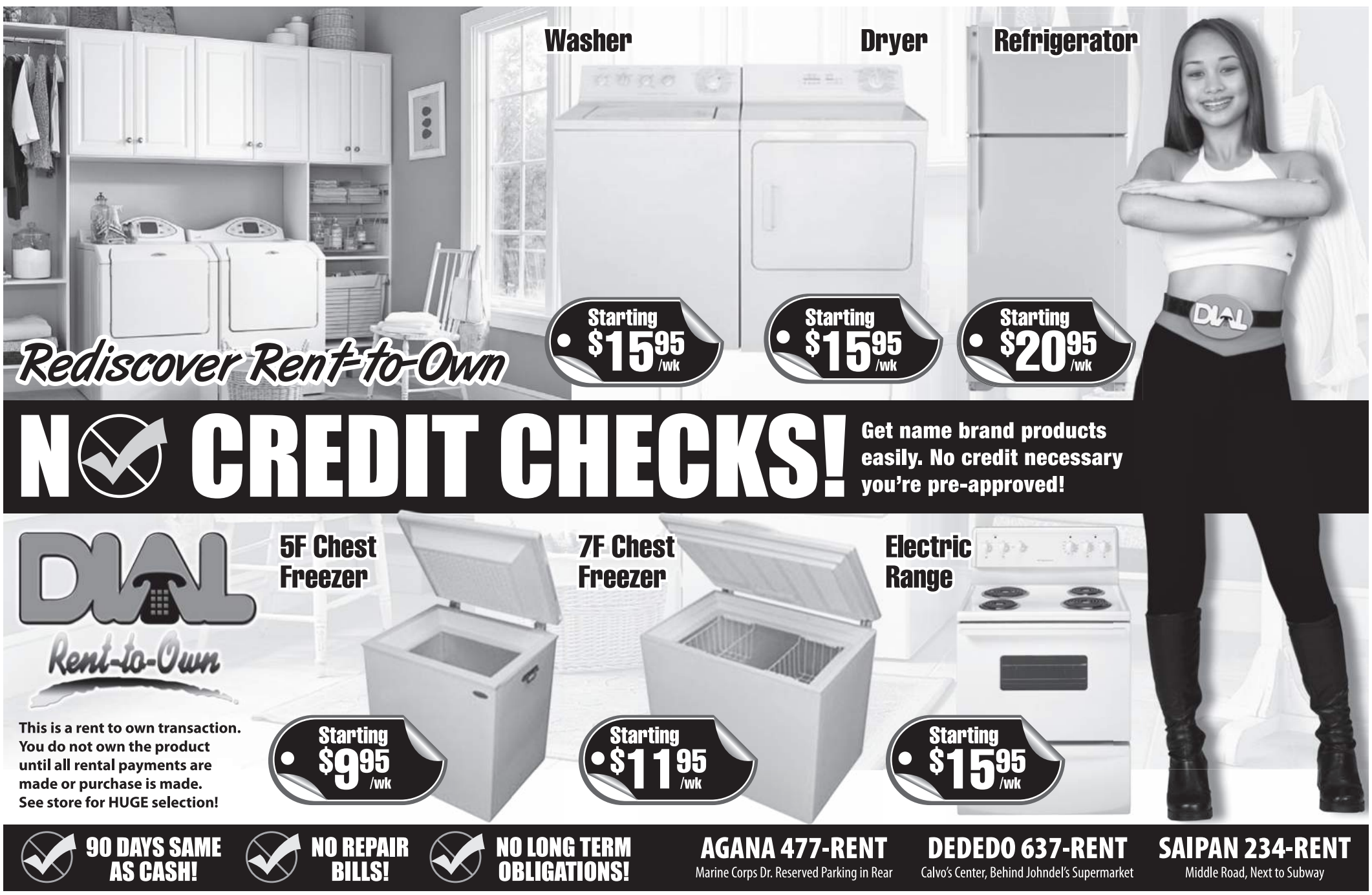
He went on to have one of the better offensive careers by a catcher. The switch-hitting Posada made the decision to retire during a season that turned tumultuous May 14 when he was batting .165 and was dropped to No. 9 in the batting order against Boston. He asked to be taken out of the lineup, saying he wasn't ready to play.

Posada rallied to hit .268 for the rest of the season, leaving him with a .235 average, 14 homers and 44 RBIs. And then on Sept. 21, his two-run pinch-hit single beat Tampa Bay to clinch the AL East and earn another huge ovation. He hit .429 (6 for 14) in the five-game loss to Detroit in the division series.

Yankees manager Joe Girardi and general manager Brian Cashman said that was just a blip in his career—part of Posada's fiery disposition, the one that drew fans to him, one that he may take with him into coaching or managing - after the Yankees likely honor him with a tribute this year.

That nature caused him to tell his agents not to negotiate with other teams.

"They kept saying that people are asking about you," Posada said. "I'm like—not interested."



7 teams confirmed for Sufa softball fundraiser

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Seven teams so far are penciled in for the Team Sufa Softball Fundraiser set this weekend at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

The entrance fee is set at $100 per team and there is no deadline to register. However, the first 15 teams to pay in full will land a spot on the double-elimination bracket.

A live deer goes to the winning team and by rule, two female players must be on every team, and of these, at least one must play out in the field at all times; and both must remain in the lineup. There is a maximum of 15 players per team.

The bracket will be randomly formulated and the competition is scheduled to kick off at 6pm tonight. From there, games will run all day through Saturday and Sunday, starting at 10am.

The winning team gets to choose between a full grown male or female deer and various consolation prizes will also be awarded to participating teams.

Sufa in Chamorro is a verb that translates into "pushing or hitting" something.

Team Sufa is a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to raise its own funds throughout the year in order to represent the CNMI in the popular CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament held in the U.S. mainland.

This year marks the eighth installment of the Labor Day event and Sufa's fifth appearance.

Unfortunately, Sufa was the first team eliminated last year, but was awarded the team sportsmanship award.

In effort to step up its game, Sufa has recruited younger players to add some fire in its step.

The Labor Day tournament started with 16 teams and grew to 31 squads in 2008. It all started as a friendly tournament organized by a small group of CNMI players living in the states who simply wanted to meet up together for some camaraderie and healthy competition. From there the event grew remarkably in popularity, so much in fact that organizers recently voted to apply stricter eligibility rules.

Over the years, many state-side teams recruited players of non-CNMI decent, which negatively changed the fabric of the event.

The eligibility rules were amended in recent years to support CNMI-affiliated competition.

The rule change requires all players to either be born with at least some CNMI lineage or be have connections to the islands through marriage.

As a result of the change, the pool shrunk to 21 teams in 2011 and a similar number is expected to turnout in this year's tourney, which will be held for a second time in Boise, Idaho.

The event hops around to a different city every year, and eligibility rules may change from year to year depending on what the host teams elect to do.

In the past, the tourney was held in Las Vegas, Seattle, San Diego, and Portland to new a few.

CNMI teams from Idaho, California, Washington, Hawaii, Arizona, Nevada, and the CNMI have all participated in past events. This year, Labor Day falls on Sept. 3.

For more information, contact Sufa's Joe Flores at 483-7848 or Sufa secretary Alfreda Camacho at 287-3818 or email teamsufa@gmail.com.

MBT

From Page 32

12-player roster may be out by end of next month.

"This Thursday (last night) will be our cut off, but because we have a big number of players they will be placed in three groups. Group A will be the 12 initial choice. Group B and C will be second and third choices. If the tournament started next week, the group A will be the team but we want all to continue training and play against each other. Right now we are thinking that the final team will be named by end of February so Group B or C can still climb up to A," the interim coach explained.

Aguon added that he was happy to see tall players in the pool and also those who have some experience competing in youth league.

"There were good signs. We have some height and then some of them are playing for the Sonics and MHS and Southern varsity teams and show solid work ethics and some experience," Aguon said.

Some of the big men joining the tryouts include Southern's Christian Mizer, who played in the MBT U15 in Palau last year, Jimmy Tudela, and Bryl Alegre. Southern slasher Jack Aranda is also on the list.

The first 30 players who showed up in the first day of the tryout on Jan. 19 were given chances to show their individual skills, according to Aguon.

"Drills were done at game speed to determine skills in dribbling, passing, layups, jump shots and so on," the interim coach said.

Then last Tuesday, players ran 5-on-5 plays to gauge their understanding on defensive and offensive plays. In between actions, Aguon explained what went right or wrong in the execution of the offensive and defensive patterns.

When the final selection is made in February, Aguon is expected to push up the training session in the next two months, as the MBT U17 will be played in May. Saipan will be hosting the age group competition from May 12 to 17 with the host squad battling teams from Guam, Yap, and Palau. A separate girls U17 competition will also take place.

MANTA

From Page 32

SSHS turned it up another notch after the pause and pulled away, 40-19, in the third quarter.

The Manta Rays connected on a pair of 3-pointers that complemented eight markers by Alegre in the homestretch.

The game was all but decided by the start of the final stanza and SSHS' bench took the floor and took care of business.

MCS' Reynald Calbatica did all he could to keep the Knights in range, but SSHS dominated the battle of the boards down low, minimizing MCS' second chance opportunities.

Calbatica and SSHS' Alegre led their respective teams with 13 points apiece; 11 of the former's came in the second half.

In the junior pairing SIS appeared a little nervous in their first game of the season and were shut down offensively in the opening 10 minutes.

GCA on the other hand came out swinging early in the fight and jumped on top, 14-0. Khemner Suque led the charge with five points.

Then SIS' Chris Cepeda found his mark for five points in the second period, but his team still remained behind, 25-7, at the break.

GCA had handful of players chip in on offense in the period.

SIS regrouped after half-time and held the Eagles to just three points in the third quarter, however the Geckos still trailed, 28-17, heading into crunch time. SIS' Cepeda added seven more markers in the rally.

Both offenses cooled off in the clutch, scoring just a handful of points apiece.

GCA's Tamari Smithee led the Eagles with 10 points, while SIS' Cepeda topped the field with 14.

The season continues today at 4pm with a junior pairing between Kagman High School (0-1) and SSHS (1-1) followed by the varsity matchup at the MHS Gym. KHS' varsity Ayuyus will be looking to bump up its flawless streak to three.

VARSITY

SSHS 53 – Alegre 13, Aranda 10, DeGuzman 8, Mizer 5, Hofschneider 4, Villanueva 4, Tudela 3, Atalig 2, Sablan 2, Salem 2.

MCS 31 – Calbatica 13, Saludez 6, Montes 4, Kautz 4, Igitol 2, Pamintuan 2

Scoring by quarters: 10-2, 21-8, 40-19, 53-31.

JUNIOR VARSITY

GCA 33 – Smithee 10, Suque 8, Libut 6, Reyes 5, Del Rosario 2, Lee 2.

SIS 22 – Cepeda 14, Xu 2, B Kim 2, J Kim 2, Johnson 1, Y Kim 1.

Scoring by quarters: 14-0, 25-7, 28-17, 33-22.

OCEANIA

From Page 32

They are primarily first year Saipan Little League Big division players.

These players also participated in the SMLBA's 2011 Summer/Fall Youth Summer Baseball League program.

Carl Camacho, Dela Cruz, Leon Guerrero, and Regis are the only four players turning 18 within the pre-determined cut-off date.

"We are fielding a young squad, but are confident that we still have the talent and team chemistry to compete. All in all, I think it will be a good experience for them to test their skills against some tough off-island competition before the start up of the 2012 little league season," said Rogolifoi after the team's final meeting at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield Wednesday

Other teams competing in the tourney include teams from Australia, Guam, and New Zealand. The event is formatted as a double-round robin where the top two place finishers compete in a winner-take-all gold medal match.

The bottom two teams will also face off for the bronze prize.

The CNMI last participated in the event back in 2004, where Australia took the crown.

On measuring the competition, Rogolifoi was frank. "We know that all the teams are good, but so are we. I think that they are looking out for us just as much as we are looking out for them. Except for Guam of course, we are closer to home, but we still need to get off to a good start right out of the gate."

Collegiate-level talent scouts will also be present observing the players during the tournament.

The CNMI drew the first matchup against New Zealand today at 4pm. Then they take on Australia tomorrow at 4pm and square off against Guam at 7pm on Sunday.

Then CNMI gets another crack on New Zealand on Jan. 30 at 4pm; then Australia at 4pm on Tuesday and another 7pm night match against Guam on Wednesday.

The gold medal match is scheduled for 7pm on Thursday preceded by the bronze game at 2pm.

The team would like to thank the Department of Youth Services Director Laura Ogumoro, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao, and Education Commissioner Rita Sablan for all of their support.

The players will have to miss five days of school to participate in the event, but Sablan gave the group her blessings and asked them to represent the CNMI well.

For more information, look up Baseball Confederation of Oceania at www.sportingpulse.com.

MARIANAS

From Page 32

Run is ideal for walkers and runners looking for a new challenge and is a great training race for the Saipan Marathon, XTERRA, and Tagaman in March," said Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas.

"Of course, it doesn't hurt that the course runs through some of the most beautiful parts of the mountain, either."

The course takes runners through wild coffee plantations planted in the Japanese-colonial era of the island and through the young coffee groves of sponsor Marianas Coffee Co.

Competitors will also be rewarded with sweeping panoramas of the Pacific Ocean and Philippine Sea.

"The Marianas Coffee Trail Run is still growing, and due to the anticipated number of runners, we're able to register participants right before the race," said Duenas. "We're looking forward to seeing many new and returning faces this year."

Registration is $25 for ages 12 and under and $40 for ages 13 and above. All participants will receive a finisher's T-shirt, certificate of participation, and free entry to the awards banquet.

The banquet will be held at Micro Beach at 11:30am on race day.

Awards, including Marianas Coffee giveaways, will be given to the first, second, and third place finishers in the male and female divisions. Walkers for the 10K are also welcomed.

The event is also sponsored by KFC Triathlon Club Japan, TEAM PDI, and Northern Marianas Athletics. Registration forms are now available at the MVA office in Oleai.

For more information, contact Ed Diaz of the MVA at ediaz@mymarianas.com or 664-3210. ***(PR)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	12	6	.667	-
Boston	7	9	.438	4
New York	7	11	.389	5
New Jersey	6	13	.316	6 1/2
Toronto	6	13	.316	6 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	16	4	.800	-
Indiana	12	5	.706	2 1/2
Milwaukee	7	10	.412	7 1/2
Cleveland	7	10	.412	7 1/2
Detroit	4	15	.211	11 1/2

Southeast Division

Miami	13	5	.722	-
Orlando	12	5	.706	1/2
Atlanta	13	6	.684	1/2
Washington	3	15	.167	10
Charlotte	3	16	.158	10 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Northwestern Division

Oklahoma City	15	3	.833	-
Denver	13	5	.722	2
Utah	10	6	.625	4
Portland	11	8	.579	4 1/2
Minnesota	8	10	.444	7

Southwest Division

San Antonio	12	7	.632	-
Memphis	10	7	.588	1
Dallas	11	8	.579	1
Houston	10	8	.556	1 1/2
New Orleans	3	15	.167	8 1/2

Pacific Division

LA Clippers	9	6	.600	-
LA Lakers	11	8	.579	-
Phoenix	6	11	.353	4
Golden State	6	11	.353	4
Sacramento	6	13	.316	5

YESTERDAY'S SCORES

LA Lakers 96, LA Clippers 91
Indiana 95, Chicago 90
San Antonio 105, Atlanta 83
Minnesota 105, Mavericks 90
Denver 122, Sacramento 93
New Jersey 97, Philadelphia 90
Oklahoma City 101, New Orleans 91
Miami 101, Detroit 98
Milwaukee 105, Houston 99
Golden State 101, Portland Blazers 93
Toronto 111, Utah 106, 2OT
Cleveland 91, New York 81
Washington 92, Charlotte 75

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Bryant, LAL	18	203	123	549	30.5
James, MIA	16	171	111	463	28.9
Durant, OKC	17	156	99	437	25.7
Love, MIN	17	134	122	424	24.9
Anthony, NYK	16	129	105	386	24.1
Ellis, GOL	15	127	74	346	23.1
Aldridge, POR	18	165	78	409	22.7
Bosh, MIA	17	139	79	363	21.4
Griffin, LAC	14	118	57	294	21.0
Westbrook, OKC	17	137	69	353	20.8
Jennings, MIL	16	123	44	323	20.2
Howard, ORL	17	121	93	335	19.7
Martin, HOU	17	113	72	332	19.5
J. Johnson, ATL	18	124	58	344	19.1
Gay, MEM	17	132	38	313	18.4
Jefferson, UTA	14	109	38	256	18.3
Lee, GOL	15	114	46	274	18.3
D. Williams, NJN	17	101	75	307	18.1
Parker, SAN	18	128	62	319	17.7
Stoudemire, NYK	15	95	70	265	17.7

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Gortat, PHX	117	198	.591
Millsap, UTA	107	193	.554
Howard, ORL	121	219	.553
James, MIA	171	310	.552
Williams, LAC	63	117	.538
Harrington, DEN	103	192	.536
Nash, PHX	92	172	.535
Bosh, MIA	139	261	.533
Bynum, LAL	91	171	.532
Blair, SAN	81	153	.529

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	17	65	200	265	15.6
Love, MIN	17	75	162	237	13.9
Bynum, LAL	14	52	133	185	13.2
Griffin, LAC	14	47	114	161	11.5
Varejao, CLE	16	70	105	175	10.9
Cousins, SAC	17	79	104	183	10.8
Lee, GOL	15	50	111	161	10.7
Humphries, NJN	16	65	99	164	10.3
Gasol, MEM	17	32	142	174	10.2
Chandler, NYK	17	64	108	172	10.1

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Nash, PHX	16	166	10.4
Rondo, BOS	13	122	9.4
Calderon, TOR	18	159	8.8
Lowry, HOU	15	130	8.7
Rose, CHI	14	121	8.6
Rubio, MIN	17	145	8.5
Paul, LAC	9	76	8.4
D. Williams, NJN	17	143	8.4
Parker, SAN	18	146	8.1
Conley, MEM	15	111	7.4

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2011 SBA King, Queen, and Prince of Lanes Winners

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Top 3 placers in the 2011 Budweiser King and Queen/Fiji Water Prince of the Lanes pose for a group picture with Saipan Bowling Association president Jerry Tan, standing center, after the awards ceremony at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

King of the Lanes tournament third finisher and Bowling Ranking System top placer Raymond Zapanta, right, receives a trophy and cash prize.

Raphael Zapanta, right, receives a gift certificate for his Top 10 finish in the King of the Lanes finale roll-off.

Marcel McKenzie, right, and Ryan Batac, get gift certificates for competing in the youth finale roll-off.

King of the Lanes Simon Manacop, right, is all smiles after receiving his prizes.

Sixth placer Ron Cal, receives a gift certificate from Saipan Bowling Association president Jerry Tan.

Saipan Bowling Association president Jerry Tan, left, congratulates Percy Omechelang for playing the most roll-offs in the 2011 season.

King of the Lanes fourth placer Robert Talavera, right, gets his cash prize.

From left, Saipan Bowling Association president Jerry Tan and the Top 3 placers in the Fiji Water Prince of the Lanes tournament John Taisacan, Marion McKenzie, and M.J. Aldan pose for a group photo.

Queen of the Lanes Gloria Omechelang, second left, is joined by runners-up Yho Villavicencio, third left, Carol McKenzie, right, and Saipan Bowling Association president Jerry Tan, left.

Azarenka into women's final at Australian Open

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Lakers hold off Clippers in city rivalry game

PAGE 27

MBT hopefuls divided into 3 pools

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Interim coach Rufino Aguon instructs players during last Tuesday's tryout for the CNMI Boys U17 Team at the Northern Marianas College Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The tryouts for the CNMI U17 Junior Boys National Team that will compete in the 2012 Micronesian Basketball Tournament had a big turnout, prompting the coaching staff to divide players into three pools.

Veteran coach Rufino Aguon said over 30 players attended the first two tryouts at the Northern Marianas College Gymnasium.

"It was a good turnout. We had 30 last week and 35 last Tuesday. I am satisfied with the turnout, as it shows that a lot of our local young players are enthusiastic in representing our island in the MBT," said Aguon, who conducted the tryouts with the help of coaching staff members Ed Manalili, Edsel Mendoza, Omar Ajoste, and Quincy Johnson.

Aguon and his crew were scheduled to make the first cut last night and the final

See MBT on Page 31

Manta Rays sting Knights in varsity hoops

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays rebounded from a sorry loss last Monday by topping the Mount Carmel School Knights, 53-31, in the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization boys basketball varsity match Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The win improved the Manta Rays' win-loss card to 3-1, while MCS is still searching for its win after four tries.

In junior varsity play, Grace Christian Academy moved into first place in the standings after holding off a second half rally by Saipan Southern High School, 33-22.

The GCA junior Eagles improved to 2-1, while the SIS Geckos came up a little short in its season debut.

In the varsity tiff, SSHS built an early 10-2 advantage off a couple of baskets by Bryle Alegre and Jaymark De Guzman.

The Manta Rays spread the ball around pretty well in the second period and stretched out to a 21-8 margin at halftime.

See MANTA on Page 30

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Saipan Southern High School's Christian Mizer makes a strong move to the basket in their MISO boys basketball game against Mount Carmel School Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Jr. Nat'l Baseball Team leaves for U18 Oceania tourney

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The CNMI Junior National Baseball Team poses for a group photo after their last meeting held after Wednesday's practice at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The CNMI Junior National Baseball team left on two flights to Guam yesterday morning to compete in the 2012 18 & Under Oceania AAA Championship at Guam's Paseo Stadium.

The team was assembled by Saipan Major League Baseball Association president Tony Rogolifoi.

The event, which is set from Jan. 27 to Feb. 3, is a qualifier for the XXV 18U Baseball World Championship, scheduled from Aug. 30 to Sept. 8, 2012 in Seoul, Korea.

Rogolifoi will manage the team with Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc. coaches Syl Ada and Bern Cabrer. SML's Rose Igitol will also be chaperoning the team.

Team CNMI is made up of Cedric and Devon Ada, Carl and Frankie Camacho, Ricardo Dela Cruz, Jacob and Jonah Flores, Brett Halstead, Kyle and Russell Hocog, Dave Hosono, Arthur Jebehn, Leroy Regis, Ian Rogolifoi, Poland Masaharu, Henry Rabauliman, Anthony Leon Guerrero, and Lancaster Secharmedal.

By rule. all of the players must all be born between 1994 and 1996 and not turn 19 prior to Dec. 31 of this year.

See OCEANIA on Page 30

5th Marianas Coffee Trail Run welcomes walkers

Got a cup of joe in hand and running late, again?

No problem. The 5th Annual Marianas Coffee Trail Run tomorrow, Jan. 28, is accepting registration until 5am on race day and is also welcoming walkers, too.

The annual signature event of the Northern Mariana Islands will feature a 10K short course and a 20K long course through some of Saipan's most challenging and scenic terrain, starting at 6:30am sharp. Showtime for registered runners is 5:30am. Beginning and finishing at Micro Beach at American Memorial Park, the race rises 1,500 feet above sea level following twists and turns through Mt. Tapochao before returning to the finish line.

"The Marianas Coffee Trail

See MARIANAS on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Vinnie Inos crosses the finish line of the 4th Marianas Coffee Trail Run at the American Memorial Park in October 2010.